

# RECOVERY WITH A HUMAN FACE

## A COORDINATED STRATEGY OF POLICY ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN IN RESPONSE TO THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS AND ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN

MARCH 2010

### KEY MESSAGES

- While there are some encouraging signs that the global recession may be coming to an end, for the world's vulnerable children and women the crisis is far from over
  - Left alone, economic recovery will not be swift or strong enough to protect children and the poor. As a large number of governments are phasing out fiscal stimulus and becoming more indebted, countries are expected to cut down expenditures as part of fiscal consolidation in 2010
  - There must be concerted efforts to ensure that recovery effectively supports the realization of children rights and ensures that efforts benefit the most excluded children and families, rather than accentuating social and economic disparities
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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Children and poor households are being hit hard by the cumulative effects of continued high food prices, economic slowdown and fiscal adjustments in medium and low income countries. As households cope by compromising essential expenditures, children's rights to education, health, and protection have come under increasing threat, particularly for poor and marginalized children (see box 1, page 3).

Many governments face increased social demands but decreasing fiscal resources to address them. Further, as a large number of governments are becoming more indebted, there is need to guard against premature fiscal tightening and post-crisis adjustment in order to ensure that the goal of long-term fiscal sustainability does not come at the expense of irreversible human losses and efforts to further child rights and MDGs.

It is critical for organizations to combine their strengths and bridge the divide between relief and development. In the 1980s, UNICEF work on Adjustment with a Human Face was a world-recognized milestone that helped ensure that children and their families were not treated as collateral damage, but as recipients of necessary and adequate development investments. The same arguments remain valid in current times: recovery with a human face is an urgent priority.

## Areas For Providing Technical Support To Governments

It is important to promote a recovery with a human face, so as to protect the rights of children and women affected by the crisis, by supporting policy advocacy, dialogue and leveraging of external assistance, in order to assist governments to:

1. **Analyze and prioritize budgets for social and economic recovery**, enabling countercyclical spending to provide immediate and adequate support to children and women. Including:
  - a. Scaling up social protection;
  - b. Maintaining (if not increasing) core social expenditures, such as education and health services;
  - c. Protecting pro-poor expenditures aimed at economic recovery and at raising household livelihood, such as increased investments in agriculture/food security and employment-generating activities.
2. **Identify sources of fiscal space**. Governments may need support to identify potential sources of fiscal space to scale up social protection, maintain (if not increase) core social expenditures, and protect other pro-poor expenditures.
3. **Conduct a rapid assessment of the social impacts of different policy options**, including how the crisis/post-crisis adjustments may cause retrogression in the realization of children rights and which policy options may help governments best to meet their obligations under the CRC;
4. **Present a set of alternative policy options for social and economic recovery** that can be used in a national dialogue on crisis responses and post-crisis policy adjustments.

UNICEF's goal is to promote recovery with a human face by delivering urgent technical support in these areas.

## INTRODUCTION

The UN Secretary-General has emphasized the need for all organizations to combine their strengths and bridge the traditional divide between relief and development. The deterioration of the economic environment in a greater number of countries, which further endangers the livelihood of the poor and marginalised, has widened the scope of the challenges facing UNICEF and deepens its concern for women and children.

As households cope by compromising essential expenditures, children's rights to education, health, and protection have come under increasing threat, particularly for poor and marginalized children. Progress towards the universal realization of the rights of all children, to which 193 countries have committed by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), as well as progress towards the MDG milestones, will be halted if the right policies to redress the situation are

not taken immediately.

In the 1980s, UNICEF's work on Adjustment with a Human Face was widely recognized as a milestone in the realisation that children and their families should not be treated as collateral damage in the business of economic adjustment, but rather are entitled to necessary and adequate development investments. The same arguments remain valid in current times: Recovery with a human face is an urgent imperative.

Recovery with a human face builds on UNICEF's progress in advancing upstream social and economic policies for the realization of child rights, by assisting countries to meet their CRC obligations through a robust social and economic recovery, and further underpinning UNICEF offices' ongoing technical assistance to partner with governments in education, health, social protection and socio-economic policies. It focuses on avoiding retrogression in the realization of children rights, and on ensuring that recovery benefits the most excluded children and families, rather than accentuating social and economic disparities.

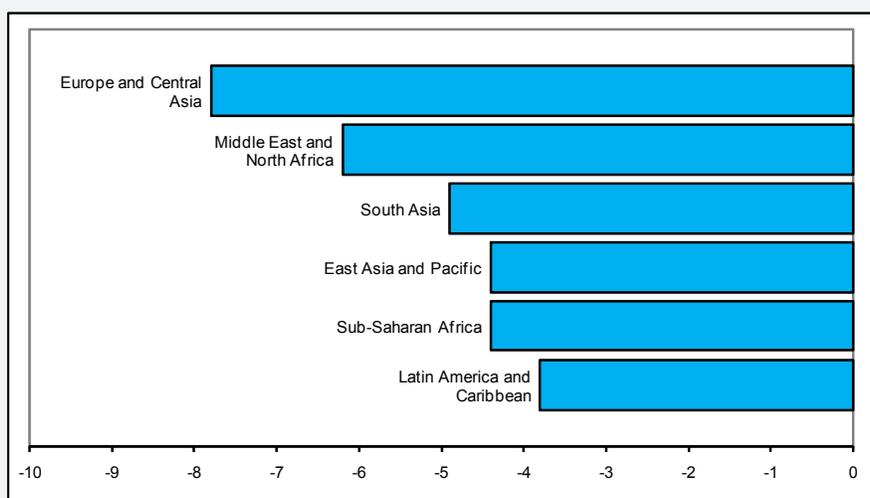
## BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

***There is an urgent need for protecting children from continued crisis impacts:*** The combination of food and fuel price increases followed by global economic slowdown has taken a toll on poor families through lower

purchasing power, reduced access to social services and higher unemployment.

Furthermore, this crisis comes on top of an existing human crisis. Prior to the recent food and fuel price volatility and global economic slowdown, half of the world was already living below the \$2-day poverty line. The 21st century starts with growing asymmetries, social tensions, and millions of children being denied their rights. In 2009, the world reached a sad milestone: over one

Box 1: Fiscal Deterioration, 2009-2009 Proj  
(Change in fiscal balance, % of GDP)



Source: World Bank, June 2009

### Evidence from 2009 Public Education Budgets

- Of 11 countries surveyed in sub-Saharan Africa there were budget declines in Cameroon, Congo and Sudan compared to 2008 and declines in Kenya compared to 2007
- Of eight countries surveyed in Asia and the Pacific there were budget declines in Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan compared to 2008
- In the Arab States region there were budget increases in Yemen, Lebanon and Egypt; lack of data exists for other countries
- Of eight countries surveyed in Latin America and the Caribbean there were budget declines in St Vincent compared to 2008 and declines in Mexico compared to 2007

Source: UNESCO 2009

billion people were starving. On top of the millions already pushed into poverty in 2008 and 2009, the World Bank's latest estimates predict that as many as 90 million more people could fall into extreme poverty

### Box 2: Child Rights in Recovery with a Human Face

The strategy of recovery with a human face not only is motivated by the urgency of protecting vulnerable children and women from long-term adverse consequences, but also is a legal duty under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). By promoting social and economic recovery that is inclusive and pro-poor, it contributes to the prevention of retrogression in child rights in the short term as well as the progressing towards the longer-term structural change to governance and society more broadly for the realisation of children's rights.

Rights-based perspectives on recovery with a human face have concrete policy implications, including:

- Analyzing budgets with a view to ascertaining their conformity with the requirement in Article 4 of the CRC that States Parties realise the economic and social rights of children to "the maximum extent of available resources", laying the foundations for long-term guarantee of child rights;
- Providing guidance and advocating for policy options for social and economic recovery that meet the requirements of Article 4 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a contribution to national dialogue on crisis responses and post-crisis policy adjustments;
- Assessing the social and distributional impact of policy options on the marginalised and excluded, the potential retrogressive elements of proposed responses, and the extent to which these options consider children's rights holistically, leveraging the complementarities and interdependence of support in areas such as nutrition, education, and health;
- Enabling scaling up of social protection programs in the short term, with a view to guaranteeing access to all without discrimination in the longer term;
- Supporting the development for social protection systems of an appropriate corresponding legal framework and having mechanisms in place for accountability and responsiveness;
- Supporting dialogue and conducting advocacy for recovery with a human face in a transparent, inclusive manner that empowers civil society and citizens to act in decision making process;
- Engaging donor and partner countries to assist them in meeting their joint obligations under the CRC and using the CRC as a reference point for the accountability of donor support; and
- Supporting States Parties to the CRC and other relevant UN and regional human rights instruments and mechanisms to include information on their response to the economic crisis in their reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

in 2010 as a result of the combined and lingering effects of the crisis.

Many developing countries face increased social needs, but decreasing government revenues to address them. In many parts of the developing world, malnutrition is rising and becoming more severe. Families are forced to compromise and the impacts on children are enduring: detriments in child nutrition—among other deprivations exacerbated by the crisis—have potentially irreversible impacts on their long-term development, with a greater risk of a whole generation of children being denied their right to full potential. This is not only a human cost but also has immense implications for whole societies in terms of long-term productivity. Many governments have expressed serious concerns at the negative impact of the global economic and financial crisis on social development, as well as on the universal realization and effective enjoyment of human rights.

***Countercyclical social spending as a crisis response is essential.*** Despite signs of recovery in some parts of the world, economic recovery will not be soon or strong enough to provide immediate relief to children and poor households, especially in countries with limited coping capacity to begin with or those facing significant economic deterioration. Recent studies find that fiscal policy has been typically procyclical in developing countries (i.e. public spending declines during downturns and increases during boom periods) in contrast with countercyclical in high income countries (such as boosting social sector spending during downturns). However in developing countries, social spending was stagnant or curtailed at a time when it was most needed, notably during past periods of economic contraction.

According to the World Bank, only one quarter of developing countries has a reasonable fiscal capacity to undertake significant counter-cyclical spending, and one third of these countries with reasonable fiscal capacity are aid dependent. This limited or non-existent fiscal space is a major factor in forcing these developing countries to pursue pro-cyclical monetary and fiscal policies, resulting in severely limited spending for vulnerable groups.

As mounting fiscal and external pressure has led many countries to undertake fiscal consolidation, supported by IMF loans and donor budget support, it is time to recognize that allocating resources to children to the maximum extent of available resources is not merely necessary but also a legal duty of the government under international law (Box 1, page 3). In the current environment, this implies an imperative of prioritizing social sector expenditures and channeling resources towards scaling up high-impact social protection programmes, while protecting core development programmes that effectively support children and their households.

***Pro-poor expenditures for social and economic recovery.*** National debates are starting to set up a dialogue on what constitutes adequate crisis recovery. While scaling up quick-impact social protection interventions and maintaining core social expenditures, there is also a need to invest in pro-poor growth, and generally in programmes aimed at the economic recovery of a country, such as promoting agriculture and livestock, well-developed industrial and trade policies that seek to generate employment and broad-based economic activities that benefit households,

and promote long-term food and income security.

The options for both social and economic recovery need to be balanced and mutually complementary, with social investment supporting economic growth, and economic growth being pursued in the manner that most effectively benefits children and the poor. Progresses towards social development will remain slow unless employment and social inclusion become a central objective of economic policies.

Further, as a large number of governments are becoming more indebted, there is need to guard against premature fiscal tightening or exit from stimulus in post-crisis policy deliberations, in order to ensure that the goal of long-term fiscal sustainability must not come at the expense of irreversible

### Box 3: Scaling Up Quick-Impact Social Protection Programmes And Protecting Core Expenditures In Times Of Crisis

Main agencies such as the IMF mention “protecting priority social expenditures” but what are non-priority social expenditures? It is critically important to defend in parallel:

- A. Quick-impact social protection initiatives to be urgently scaled-up such as food security programmes, cash transfers to households, guaranteed work schemes, school feeding, child protection services, and empowerment of poor families to access and benefit from these programmes;
- B. Core social expenditures to be maintained (if not increased) to preserve gains in the realization of children’s and women’s rights, and to preserve longer-term national development achievements. Core spending could include employment and salaries of teachers, doctors, nurses, social workers in sector ministries, operation, and maintenance of key programmes in education, health and other social services; and
- C. Promoting economic recovery to raise household living standards such as increased investments in agriculture/food security and employment-generating industry and enterprises, with a view to strengthening households’ resilience to shocks, enjoying greater food and income security, and thus are better able to ensure their children’s’ well-being.

It is important to realize that if a county only allocates resources for (A), people may enjoy some temporary safety nets, but lose earlier investments towards development, resulting in a net social loss.

Source: UNESCO, 2009

#### Box 4: Identifying Fiscal Space

1. Re-prioritization of public sector spending: For example, prioritizing social sectors over military spending, as shown by UNICEF-ODI studies in African countries.
2. More accommodating macroeconomic policy framework for social and economic recovery - e.g. Indonesia has allowed a higher deficit in order to bolster recovery efforts. It is important that macroeconomic frameworks are not restricted to controlling inflation and fiscal deficits, but focused on real output, incomes and employment.
3. External financing without jeopardizing macroeconomic stability, such as through grants, concessional borrowing, or debt relief; e.g. European Commission grant budget support, IMF's rapid credit facility, World Bank's economic recovery loans or ADB's countercyclical support facility.
4. Domestic borrowing and resource mobilization.
5. Potential use of reserves, e.g. low income countries are becoming an important driver of global reserve accumulation, implying a high social and economic opportunity cost.
6. Increasing domestic revenues: Examples include a new tax to help fund cash transfers in Brazil; the Mongolia Development Fund from copper exports; using royalties on hydrocarbons for Bolivia's National Development Plan; consideration of possible "sin tax" on beer in Russia and Bank tax in the U.S. and U.K.
7. Eliminating, where immediately possible, inefficiencies that could lead to cost-savings in public programs. However, care should be taken as sector reforms are feasible in the medium term, and will not generate sufficient fiscal space in the short term.

human losses and of efforts to further child rights and MDGs. For example, out of 43 Sub-Saharan countries, 35 countries expanded government expenditure during 2007-09 in response to the crisis, but in 2010 24 countries are expected to cut down in expenditure as part of the fiscal consolidation .

***Urgent Need for Policy Dialogue and Leveraging External Assistance to Developing Countries:*** The International Monetary Fund is the main institution empowered by the G-20 to combat the impacts of the financial crisis and economic slowdown. Of the \$1 trillion committed world crisis response, \$750 billion was allocated to the IMF. IMF Managing Director, Mr. Strauss-Kahn, has recently presented a new discourse that focuses on fiscal stimulus plans, concessional lending, allowance for counter-cyclical interventions,

streamlined conditionality, new lending facilities, and measures to ensure social safeguards, including protection of "priority social expending".

New IMF policies are in place for this, yet proactive engagement at the country level is still necessary to promote programmes which truly prioritise social protection, pro-poor growth and long-term human development, particularly in the context of fiscal adjustment requirements asked by the IMF. CEPR, a Washington-based think tank, recently reviewed a number of current IMF programmes and found that many still exhibit pro-cyclical rather than counter-cyclical features. A recent UNESCO survey of education budgets in selected developing countries shows some to be declining (Box 2, page 4). Investments in human development are under threat as national budgets are tightened in many countries. Further, as a significant amount of governments are becoming indebted, there is a need to avoid a post-crisis scenario whereby social expenditures remain contracted.

With regard to the United Nations, since late 2008, the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) of the UN has paid special attention to the changing world situation as a result of the global economic crisis. Meeting in early April, 2009, the CEB confirmed a clear determination to take decisive and urgent action, consisting of nine joint initiatives. Four of these: (i) strategies to provide additional financing for the most vulnerable in countries in distress, (ii) progress in food and nutrition security, (iii) a social protection floor, and (iv) improved monitoring and analysis of crisis impacts, are particularly relevant for protecting the rights of children and other vulnerable groups. Recovery with a human

face should be understood in the context of these initiatives.

Donors, most notably the European Commission, are providing a significant amount of aid to low income countries as general budget support. These donors share with UNICEF a will to see positive social results. UNICEF can be an effective partner, leveraging the funds of big financiers, to contribute to a socially-responsible recovery and long-term strengthening of realisation of the rights of children emerging from the crisis.

## OBJECTIVES

The goal of the proposal is to promote a recovery with a human face, so as to protect the rights of children and women affected by the crisis, by supporting policy advocacy, dialogue and leveraging of external assistance, in order to assist governments to:

**1. Analyze and prioritize budgets for social and economic recovery,** enabling countercyclical spending to provide immediate and adequate support to children and women. Including:

- a. Scaling up social protection;
- b. Maintaining (if not increasing) core social expenditures, such as education and health services;
- c. Protecting pro-poor expenditures aimed at economic recovery and at raising household livelihood, such as increased investments in agriculture/ food security and employment-generating activities.

**2. Identify sources of fiscal space.**

Governments may need support to identify potential sources of fiscal space to scale up social protection, maintain (if not increase) core social expenditures, and protect other

pro-poor expenditures.

**3. Conduct a rapid assessment of the social impacts of different policy options,** including how the crisis/post-crisis adjustments may cause retrogression in the realization of children rights and which policy options may help governments best to meet their obligations under the CRC;

**4. Present a set of alternative policy options** for social and economic recovery that can be used in a national dialogue on crisis responses and post-crisis policy adjustments;

Additionally to providing technical assistance to the budget office and line Ministries of partner governments, UNICEF and partners will consolidate regional and global reports to raise awareness of the importance of a recovery with a human face.

## SCOPE

Recovery with a human face builds on earlier UNICEF work, such as “Adjustment with a Human Face” (back in the 1980s), and more recently, work on social budgets, analysis

### Box 5: Pakistan Commission Report On Economic Stabilization With A Human Face (2009)

In order to respond to the crisis, Pakistan created an Advisory Panel of leading economists to examine policy options and design a plan for a robust recovery. The Panel submitted an Interim Report titled “Economic Stabilization with a Human Face” to the country’s Planning Commission. The Panel has recommended a number of actionable programmes and policies to restore macroeconomic balance and protect poor and vulnerable segments of the country, notably from the recent food and fuel price volatility and the unfolding economic crisis. These measures covered fiscal, monetary, trade and tax policy reforms, along with a more robust social protection response to the crisis. The latter includes increasing coverage of the Benazir Income Support Programme to 4.5 million families, initiating an Employment Guarantee Scheme in poor districts, increasing microfinance outreach and providing housing for the poor. The Panel advocates for a taking steps to achieve a quick and robust economic and social recovery, with an emphasis on pro-poor sectors such as agriculture and SMEs leading the revival of economic growth. Source: UNESCO, 2009

of poverty and disparities, engagement in PRSPs and national development strategies, as well as support to more than 124 social protection programmes in developing countries. The UN system in general and UNICEF in particular is in a pole position in many countries to support governments and national partners along a four-step framework of countercyclical fiscal response for adequate development needs. Specifically:

**1. Analyze and prioritize budgets for social and economic recovery**, enabling countercyclical social spending to provide immediate and adequate support to children and women, scale up quick-impact social protection initiatives programmes, and protect pro-poor expenditures. While recent IMF-supported programmes and donor budget support (e.g. EU) recognize the need to preserve priority social spending, the identification and budgeting of what is priority social spending is left to countries (Box 3, page 5). To assist governments, it will be useful to:

(i) identify urgent social protection initiatives that have a quick positive impact on children, that can be scaled-up or introduced rapidly (e.g. nutrition programmes, cash transfers), and that will provide the basis for a sustainable social protection floor. UNICEF will support this through providing guidance on social protection design and implementation options which are appropriate to the national context and best reach vulnerable households and children;

(ii) identify core social sector spending to be maintained (if not increased) in order to preserve human development gains

and longer term national development objectives (e.g. employment in sector ministries, operation and maintenance);

(iii) identify pro-poor expenditures aimed at the economic recovery of a country (e.g. agriculture)

(iv) provide estimates of the budgetary costs of these options.

**2. Identify fiscal space for socially-responsive options.** Governments may need support to identify potential sources of fiscal space to scale up social protection, maintain (if not increase) core social expenditures, and protect other pro-poor expenditures.

This can be achieved, among others, by:

(i) re-prioritization of public expenditures (e.g. prioritizing social sectors over military spending);

(ii) putting in place a more accommodating macroeconomic policy framework for both social and economic recovery, not exclusively focused on controlling inflation and fiscal deficits, but also on real output, incomes and employment;

(iii) external financing without jeopardizing macroeconomic stability (e.g. grants, concessional borrowing, or debt relief);

(iv) domestic borrowing and resource mobilization;

(v) using reserves when feasible;

(vi) increasing domestic revenues such as by increasing progressive taxation (e.g. income tax, taxing the financial sector, taxes on natural resources, cars, cigarettes etc)

and by eliminating revenue leakages (e.g. strengthening tax administration, closing tax loopholes, rationalizing tax exemptions/incentives);

(viii) eliminating, where immediately possible, inefficiencies at national, regional, and/or local level that could lead to cost-savings in public programmes (e.g. more effective channeling of resources to the end-beneficiaries while minimizing leakages).

Timing and sequencing should be considered, as some measures entail reforms are only feasible in the medium term, and will not generate sufficient fiscal space in the short term (Box 4, page 6).

**3. Conduct a rapid assessment of the social impacts of different policy options**, including how the crisis/post-crisis adjustments may cause retrogression in the realization of children rights and which policy options may help governments best to meet their obligations under the CRC (see Box 1, page 3).

The main objective of this exercise is to support governments to embark on socially-responsive recovery measures. Thus the discussion of policy options should take into consideration its social impacts, including, but not limited to, the net impacts on:

- (i) access to social goods and services (education, health, social protection, water and sanitation, as well as access to agricultural inputs, credit);
- (ii) demand for labor;
- (iii) prices facing the poor (e.g., if consumer subsidies are removed) and
- (iv) social expenditures (including net public transfers to poor households). The rapid assessment should also depict how and how

much different policy options will benefit: (a) poor/noon-poor, (b) women/men, (c) children/adults, (d) urban/rural populations, (e) indigenous/non-indigenous and any other relevant social group.

The rapid assessment should consider impacts on the short and long term, with an emphasis on impacts on the short term, and above all identify measures that may involve redistribution to upper income groups, as this should be avoided in a socially-responsive crisis recovery plan. Given that this is a rapid scoping exercise, the assessment may be presented in a simplified matrix form.

**4. Provide a set of alternative policy options for social and economic recovery** that can be used in a national dialogue on the crisis. Countries are concerned not only with addressing the negative social impacts of the economic crisis, but also with earlier orthodox policy-prescriptions. Given the recent change in approach by the international financial institutions, national dialogues to address priorities in social and economic recovery are a good tool for transparency and accountability in policy-making, as well as for ensuring national ownership.

National social and economic recovery programmes should ideally be informed by the analyses produced identifying socially-responsive policy options, including possible sources of fiscal space to implement them. Options should ideally be framed in the context of the nine UN Joint Crisis Response Initiatives, engaging with UN agencies, and are consistent with the requirements of Article 4 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. To the extent possible, this should be developed in a participatory way from the outset, so that both national

and international stakeholders realize the potential of collaborating on forming crisis responses.

In a growing number of countries, a national dialogue on crisis responses has already begun (i.e. Box 5 illustrates the case of Pakistan).

## ENGAGEMENT AND ADVANCEMENT

Maintaining and increasing investments to support vulnerable children and families is not only a moral imperative, but fundamental to long term recovery and sustainable development. A recovery with a human face will take a concerted effort by policy makers, development practitioners, donors and international organizations to make sure that the best interests of children and their households are protected.

Recovery with a human face builds on UNICEF's work in socially-responsive budgeting, national development strategies as well as supporting more than 124 social protection programmes in developing countries. We know we can't do this alone. To ensure a recovery with a human face there is need to orchestrate coordinated engagement at the country, regional and global level.

- **Country-level engagement** – Working with partners to support national dialogue and policy-making process. This will require the advancing of policymaking tools and child-related social and economic policy expertise around public financial management, national development strategies and social budgeting. Together with partner agencies, UNICEF is helping influence national budgets at key points, informing policy dialogue, providing

technical support to social protection programme design and stimulating national debate on alternative policy options for social and economic recovery.

- **Regional-level engagement** – Technical backstopping and regional-level coordination is critical to move forward high profile regional advocacy and knowledge management efforts. Together with partner organizations, UNICEF is disseminating and advancing relevant evidence and country experiences, facilitating capacity building and fostering dialogue through conferences, reports and briefings.
- **Global-level engagement** – Innovative tools, operational guidance notes, relevant research and policy products need to be created, discussed and advanced at a global level. Together with key organizations, UNICEF is playing a catalytic and leading role at the global level by convening partner agencies around this initiative, disseminating critical evidence and tools, and carrying out high profile global advocacy and fundraising efforts.

If you are interested in learning more about recovery with a human face or engaging in this important initiative please contact the Economic and Social Policy Unit of UNICEF's Division of Policy and Practice (DPP) by email at [socialpolicy@unicef.org](mailto:socialpolicy@unicef.org) and visit [http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index\\_52493.html](http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_52493.html).

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## ABOUT RECOVERY WITH A HUMAN FACE

This document was prepared with contributions from Isabel Ortiz, Jingqing Chai, Gaspar Fajth, Sharmila Kurukulasuirya, Ronald Mendoza and David Stewart. For more information on this issue, or to share comments, please contact [socialpolicy@unicef.org](mailto:socialpolicy@unicef.org). This overview document was prepared to facilitate greater exchange of knowledge and stimulate analytical discussion on economic crisis and recovery. These views do not necessarily reflect the policies or view of UNICEF. The designations in this publication do not imply an opinion on legal status of any country or territory, or of its authorities, or the delimitation of frontiers.

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## ANNEX 1: RECOVERY WITH A HUMAN FACE

### Main Results and Activities

Result 1. Immediate interventions enabled to provide timely and adequate support to vulnerable populations, through:

- Assessing rapidly the adequacy of the existing social services and protection measures for addressing the urgent social needs arising from the crisis

Activity 1.1 A rapid analysis of the social spending in budget for 2006-2010 as well as the actual resource allocations at the local and service-provider levels, highlighting any actual, pending, or planned cuts in core social spending areas;

Activity 1.2 A rapid assessment of the coverage and adequacy of existing social services and programs and their effectiveness in reaching vulnerable women and children;

- Identifying social protection programs, social services and pro-poor investments that should be maintained or scaled up to ensure social and economic recovery for all

Activity 1.3 A streamlined cost analysis to identify services/ programs/investments that are relatively effective in addressing the urgent social and economic needs; generally this may involve:

- Scaling up social protection interventions;
- Maintaining (if not increasing) core social expenditures such as on education and health services;
- Protecting pro-poor expenditures aimed at economic recovery and at raising household living standards, such as increased investments in agriculture/food security and employment-generating industry and enterprises, with a view to making households less vulnerable to shocks and support food and income security, essential for child development.

Result 2. Greater resources channeled to Result 1.

Activity 2.1 Policy analyses and technical inputs that detail options for expanding fiscal space and policy options;

Activity 2.2 Engaging external donors and international financial institutions in discussions of financing options and policy design.

Result 3. Social impact of policy options, and their contribution to realize children rights.

Activity 3.1 A rapid assessment of the social impact of different proposed policies/ interventions, identifying best options for governments to embark on socially-responsive recovery measures;

Activity 3.2 A rapid assessment of how the crisis and post-crisis adjustment environment may disrupt progress towards the realization of children rights, including

the principle of non-regression, and how UNICEF proposed policies may make a difference to fulfill human rights.

Result 4. Policy alternatives for social and economic recovery identified to facilitate a national dialogue on recovery with a human face.

Activity 4.1 Presenting best policy options. Options should ideally be framed in the context of the nine UN Joint Crisis Response Initiatives, engaging with UN agencies.

- Identified services/programs/investments in the upcoming budget so that core social services are maintained/increased, pro-poor expenditures (e.g. agricultural investments) protected, and social protection programs and initiatives (e.g. the UN's Social Protection Floor crisis initiative) scaled up, for governments to embark on socially-responsive recovery;
- Proposed sources of fiscal space.

Activity 4.2 National multi-stakeholder meeting/event to launch dialogue and deliberation on recovery with a human face in a participatory manner. To the extent possible, activities 1 to 4 should be developed in a participatory way from the outset, so that both national and international stakeholders realize the potential of collaborating on forming crisis responses.