

## **UNICEF's contributions to M&E of HIV/AIDS**

### **Background:**

UNICEF is a learning organization, and relies on research and evaluation as essential functions to develop a human rights approach to our work. Together with partners in the field – governments, civil society and other international organizations - UNICEF strives to improve the situation of children and women, using the Conventions on the Rights of the Child and on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women as our guide.

### **Current position in M&E environment:**

UNICEF has approximately 140 M&E officers in 127 country offices – the largest field presence of any of the UNAIDS co-sponsors. In addition to the M&E officers, there are HIV advisors in the countries who provide advice to country counterparts on evidence-based programming. HIV/AIDS is one of UNICEF's five priority programming areas.

At the global level UNICEF is an active member in the Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group on HIV/AIDS (MERG) as well as the UNAIDS reference group on estimates and projections. UNICEF has also contributed to the preparation of the M&E guides for HIV/AIDS coordinated by the MERG.

UNICEF is the lead agency in the development of DevInfo, an integrated database and mapping information system which will be widely by the UN and partners for monitoring the MDGs.

### **Reporting needs:**

At country level, UNICEF is a substantial partner in the UNDAF process, and provides much input into Common Country Assessments through its extensive network of M&E officers.

Currently UNICEF is responsible for reporting on HIV/AIDS indicators for the MDGs, in addition to a number of UNGASS goals, and World Fit for Children Goals.

### **Current tools and manuals used:**

- UNGASS Guide to collecting the core indicators
- UNAIDS National Programme Guide
- End Decade Multiple Indicator Survey Manual. This well-received manual will be substantially revised to reflect the greater emphasis on HIV/AIDS and other emerging issues in the next MICS round (see below)
- Evaluation tools may be found at <http://www.unicef.org/reseval/emethodsr.html>
- ChildInfo integrated database and mapping information system (migrating to DevInfo)

UNICEF also relies on standard methodologies developed by other partners, such as the Demographic and Health Surveys and Behavioural Surveillance Surveys

Among UNICEF's contributions to monitoring the epidemic is the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), one of the largest population-based survey exercises on social indicators for children, including child health, well-being, education and vulnerability. The 2000/01 round of MICS was conducted in 66 countries and included information on HIV/AIDS knowledge. Preparation is underway for the next round of MICS to be conducted in 2005. This survey will include more extensive data collection efforts on HIV/AIDS, which will directly contribute to monitoring of UNGASS and MDG indicators and to improved understanding and targeting of programme efforts at country level.

UNICEF, in collaboration with ORC Macro, is currently field testing indicators on orphans and young people as well as testing a methodology for monitoring children outside of household care.

### **M&E technical assistance needs (identified gaps/priority areas in M&E capacity):**

UNICEF M&E officers in the field are often called upon to provide substantial input into the countries M&E response to HIV/AIDS. However, there is an increased need for improved database and mapping skills, among UNICEF M&E officers and partners at the country level. There is continued need to improve on mechanisms to ensure data quality; proper archiving of data; support transparency and to ultimately promote much more use of data collected.