



CF-RAI-USAA-DPP-RAM-2006-00057

Expanded Number **CF-RAI-USAA-DPP-RAM-2006-00057**

External ID

Title

**Statistics on Children and Youth - Plan/S/1**

Date Created / From Date

Date Registered

Date Closed / To Date

Primary Contact

Home Location **CF/RAF/ZW/H0022-1980-000075835 (In Container)**

F12: Status Certain? **No**

**5/18/1971 at 11:32 AM**

**5/12/2006 at 11:32 AM**

Contained Records

Owner Location **Dep.Exec Dir,Operations ( Heyward) =50019304**

Current Location/Assignee **Record & Archive Manage Related Functions=80669443 since 5/12/2006 at 11:32 AM**

Record Type **A01 DPP-RAM ITEM**

F13: Record Copy? **No**

F01: In, Out, Internal Rec or Rec Copy

Container **CF/RA/BX/N9/ED/OP/1980/T002: Mr. Heyward - Emergencies & Education Archive B**

Date Published

Fd3: Doc Type - Format

Da1:Date First Published

Priority

Document Details **Record has no document attached.**

Print Name of Person Submit Image

Signature of Person Submit

Number of images without cover

*Upasana*

*8*

2. N. S. K.

STATISTICS ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Preliminary Note  
for Comment and Advice

INTRODUCTION

1. UNICEF has been concerned for the past four years with the development of statistics on children and youth and has co-operated to this end with the Economic Commissions for Asia and the Far East, Africa, and Latin America. The Economic Commission for Latin America has recently prepared a compilation on Statistics on Children and Youth in Latin America which brings together in common tables for all the countries concerned data in respect of Population, Health, Education, Economic Activity, and Social Situation in relation to children and youth. Likewise, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East has brought out a supplement which presents a series of summary tables for the region as a whole followed by separate country tables which provide whatever information is readily available for each country. A similar compilation has not yet been prepared for Africa, where statistical services and gaps in individual countries are still being reviewed. Closer study of the Latin American and Asian Supplements on Statistics on Children and Youth would indicate several directions in which the existing data have to be improved. The regional compilations provide a broad basis for comparing and taking an overall view for the region, but the main focus needs to be placed on the collection, presentation and use of statistics by each country, in relation to its own conditions and requirements for drawing up plans and programmes bearing on children and youth.

Importance for Planning

2. Under the aegis of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East systematic attention has been given to the determination of statistical requirements for children and youth in the context of individual countries. The Draft Guidelines prepared by the ECAFE secretariat, which were considered by the Conference of Asian Statisticians in December 1970, were preceded by an Expert Group of users and producers of statistics on children and youth (November 1968), a Workshop on Collection of Statistics on Children and Youth through sample surveys (February 1969) and a review of the recommendations of the Expert Group and the Workshop by the Conference of Asian Statisticians

/...

(June 1969). These regional exercises were undertaken as preparation for more specific work in individual countries. Invariably, the first issues raised by them concerned (a) the nature of planning, (b) the nature of statistical requirements, and (c) the present state of statistical information, insofar as these pertain to children and youth.

3. For the same reasons for which it is not easy to define the place of children and youth in planning for national development, it is also not easy to mark out statistical requirements concerning children and youth. If national development were all comprehensive and could take full account of economic and social needs and of the needs and potentials of different sections of the population and of different regions, there would be less reason to single out a particular group - children and youth - as a sector calling for a special effort in planning. But resources are limited, development is spread over a long period, and a great deal of it tends to proceed by jerks and, unless appropriate priorities are developed in the early stages, gaps in levels of development go on increasing. In any of the less developed countries, it is natural that a substantial part of the resources devoted to development should go into the building up of productive capacities, economic infrastructures related to them, and development of institutions for training the personnel needed. However, in this process the social and the human aspects of development are apt to remain relatively neglected for a long period. The impact is particularly harsh on the rising generation, the children and the adolescents, whose potentials remain under-developed and under-utilized far beyond the extent that can be explained in terms of the existing economic constraints. In emphasizing the place of children and youth in the scheme of national development, therefore, one of the main objectives is to influence the priorities and directions of development along lines which, while promoting economic growth, will, at the same time, strengthen the social base, provide for the development of human resources and rise in the level of productivity of young workers, and equip each new generation with the skills and attitudes needed for effective participation in the economic process.

/...

Main categories of statistics needed

4. From what has been said above, it will be seen that all improvements in statistical data and statistical services, which will make for better economic and social planning from an overall point of view, will also make for better planning for children and youth, considered as one of the integrating approaches to national development. Therefore, in seeking improved data on children and youth at the country level, it is desirable to help strengthen national statistical services and information in their broader aspects. This will, however, not be sufficient, as there are more specific objectives also to be achieved. Statistical information of special interest in planning for children and youth would include:

- (i) economic, social and demographic information required for identifying the place and potentials of this segment of the population within the national economy;
- (ii) information indicating levels of development reached at given points of time with a view to assessing the current situation and needs, evaluating progress, identifying key problems, and preparing projections for perspective development. Such information is required for the country as a whole, for urban and rural areas separately and, progressively, for different regions within a country.
- (iii) Statistics required for or related to the preparation of and appraisal of specific programmes of development of particular interest to children and youth.

Briefly, the three main categories of statistics to be utilized and/or developed systematically in relation to children and youth may be described as being, firstly, economic, demographic and social data; secondly, indicators of development; and thirdly, statistics on programmes and administrative performance.

5. As an organization at the international level concerned with children and youth, the three groups of statistics noted above would be of help to UNICEF in assessing the economic and social implications of the development of children and youth, their situation and needs in different

countries and regions, and the extent of progress achieved. In so far as UNICEF assists programmes undertaken within countries, its programme statistics should be derived increasingly from national programme and performance statistics. This aspect is considered later. In addition, as a funding organization with considerable activity in terms of physical procurement and supplies, UNICEF has its own operational supply and procurement information, some of which will be of interest also for policy planning. This aspect falls outside the present paper.

#### Economic, demographic and social information

6. The Statistical Commission, the Population Division and the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations have been engaged for many years in developing standard concepts and improving the use and collection of statistics in various fields. It is obvious that their efforts and the efforts of individual countries in building up better data through census enumeration, sampling surveys and special studies are of a continuing nature and must go on for many years, the nature of the improvements feasible varying with conditions in different countries. Those responsible for planning for children and youth at the national level are, therefore, in the position of concerned users, availing of the data thrown up from different sources and participating, to the extent possible, in attempts to improve them and to strengthen the machinery for collection. However, in planning for children and youth, it is essential to secure as much information as possible, not only for a country as a whole but separately for urban and rural areas and for different regions within the country. Definitions of "urban" and "rural" are apt to vary and the differences need to be noted. As to regions, while one of the aims is to be able to distinguish the more from the less developed regions in a country, regional classifications are influenced as much by considerations of administrative convenience as by other criteria, and, there may often be different "regions" for different purposes.

7. Sometimes it is suggested that for planning for children and youth, data should be available also by socio-economic groups. In one study, for instance, it was proposed that for rural areas the population should be

classified as between agricultural labour, farmers and cultivators, non-agricultural labour and non-agricultural self-employed. For urban areas the socio-economic groups proposed were, manual labour, self-employed persons in manual occupations, non-manual employees, and self-employed in non-manual occupations. In so far as these or similar groups are adopted for the population census and the relevant information is available in the ordinary course not only by sex but also by age groups, the data can be utilized in planning for children and youth. Where such information is not readily forthcoming, it would be desirable to follow a simpler classification of socio-economic groups such as can be served by the data available.

8. It is not necessary here to refer in detail to the main economic, demographic and social statistics which are currently presented in national statistics yearbooks, and in the various United Nations yearbooks, such as those on national accounts statistics, The Statistical Yearbook, The Demographic Yearbook and the yearbooks published by the specialized agencies. For planning for children and youth, in addition to the principal categories of economic and demographic data which are being developed in many countries, the following types of information are particularly important:

1. Distribution of income and expenditure
2. Employment: structure and projections
3. Labour force: age composition and projections
4. Human resources and productivity
5. Education
6. Health
7. Nutrition and food consumption
8. Welfare services and institutions

9. In dealing with plans concerning children and youth, there is need to obtain all demographic information and information bearing on education, human resources and the labour force by single years of age. The work done by the Population Division of the United Nations in this context is of great help but, obviously, much more has to be done at the country level.

/...

10. In planning for children and youth, the following broad categories may be followed with advantage in UNICEF's work:

Infants	:	up to 1 year of age
Young (pre-school) children	:	(2 to 6)
Elementary School-age children (Boys and Girls separately)	:	(7-12)
Adolescents (Boys and Girls separately)	:	(13-15 and 16-18)
Youth (Men and Women separately)	:	(19-24)

For a general tabulation in UNICEF's work, the age-groups proposed above could be conveniently adopted. In each country, further adjustments can be made if numbers or estimates by single years of age are available.

11. Each important item of statistical information referred to or implied under the various heads mentioned above, is already the subject of expert study in the appropriate units and the specialized agencies of the United Nations and elsewhere. In further work in UNICEF, it is hoped to follow up different themes in some detail.

12. A brief reference should also be made here to work currently in progress under the United Nations Statistical Commission on the development of an integrated system of demographic, manpower and social statistics which could be linked to the extent possible with a system of national accounts. UNICEF needs to keep in touch with this relatively new field of enquiry as also with the economic studies being made by the Centre for Development Planning and Projections of the United Nations. Specific activities on behalf of children and youth are necessarily directed to some sectors more than to others, but all aspects of the interaction between economic and social development and, therefore, data which provide greater understanding of such interaction, are of concern to UNICEF and to national authorities.

#### Indicators of development

13. In recent years considerable attention has begun to be given to the building up of systematic indicators of development and much of the work done can be adapted to the requirements of planning for children and youth.

It will be sufficient here to invite attention to the study by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on Contents and Measurement of Socio-Economic Development (1970) and the Institute's Compilation of Development Indicators (for 1960). Work on indicators of development is also being undertaken elsewhere, and specially in UNESCO and WHO, and there is a recent study from Princeton University on Quantitative Analyses of Modernization and Development. It will be necessary for UNICEF to take advantage of these pioneering efforts in planning for children and youth and to co-operate with individual countries in developing their own indicators and the data needed for them. In this way, gradually, greater precision can be obtained in defining goals, measuring progress, and identifying gaps which call for special attention.

#### Programme and performance statistics

14. The programme statistics now in use in UNICEF's work at various levels are designed to indicate the contribution made by UNICEF to the establishment of new centres of different kinds, training, etc. UNICEF's programme statistics are not derived from any continuing series or other data at the national level, and do not indicate the proportion of outlay or the precise dimensions of UNICEF's contribution. There are other weaknesses also which suggest the need for a critical re-examination of UNICEF's current programme statistics. Programme and performance statistics, within countries or for UNICEF, have to be conceived of as practical management tools in the long-range development of services of interest to children, adolescents and youth.

15. Important programmes concerning children and youth in the sectors of health, education, human resources, nutrition, welfare, etc., have to be analysed separately in terms of objectives, target populations, inputs, personnel, training of personnel, costs, criteria of appraisal, etc. If these aspects are carefully examined, appropriate programme and performance statistics can be proposed and data collected systematically as part of the process of administrative implementation. Administrative analysis on the lines proposed has to be undertaken primarily at the national level, but there is need also for analysing various programme areas in more general terms.

Initial steps

16. UNICEF is in a position to devote limited resources to the support, to begin with, in a few selected countries, to programmes of work aimed at bringing together and improving statistics on children and youth. Perhaps the best results may come from a phased step-by-step approach in which the Planning, Statistics and the sectoral agencies concerned in a country together evolve appropriate plans and ensure the necessary administrative conditions for sustained and competent attention to statistics on children and youth. However, before approaching the question of action to improve statistics on children and youth at the country level, it is necessary for UNICEF to acquaint itself fully with the efforts under way or planned under the aegis of various Divisions of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the specialized agencies, and the regional economic commissions. This paper will serve to convey to them UNICEF's special concerns in the area of statistics and may enable them to advise UNICEF on how best and in what directions it could supplement their efforts, specially at the country level and, in co-operation with each of them, initiate steps towards improved statistics on children and youth.