

Subj Chron: CF/EXD/SP/1987-0023

Points Address by Mr. James P. Grant  
Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
at the RESULTS International Conference:  
Key Developments for Children in 1986-87

Washington  
17 May 1987

	UNICEF Alternate Inventory Label
	Rcf0006H01
<b>Item #</b>	<b>CF/RAD/USAA/DB01/1998-02025</b>
<b>ExR/Code:</b>	<b>CF/EXD/SP/1987-0023</b>
Results International Conference . Key Development for Ch:	
<i>Date Label Printed</i>	12-Dec-2001

cover + 3pp + 0b

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KEY DEVELOPMENTS FOR CHILDREN IN 1986-87

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- I Negative global economic environment continues, underlining importance of Adjustment with a Human Face and potential for Child Survival & Development Revolution (CSDR).
- II Adjustment with a Human Face - attention to human needs in the course of adjustment
- 1) Rhetorical concensus e.g. IMF, Le Monde Diplomatique
  - 2) Actualization will require both (a) willingness of social sector institutions to restructure and (b) external assistance, including some recurrent costs.
  - 3) Implementation at country level increasing e.g. Pakistan, Indonesia, Algeria.
- III CSDR momentum accelerating, particularly Universal Child Immunization (UCI) and Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) - infectious and diarrhoeal diseases are both caused by and exacerbate malnutrition, contributing to tragic cycle
- 1) Bangalore Declaration of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
  - 2) UCI-1990 momentum e.g. World Health Assembly Resolution; over 80 countries acclerating efforts, including Syria, Egypt, Senegal, Indonesia, Algeria, Congo, Zimbabwe, Morocco, Cameroon, Nepal, Guatemala, Venezuela, Peru, Ethiopia, etc.; 1987 World Health Day had immunization theme; Francophone Africa Parliamentarians' declaration

- 3) ORT momentum e.g. over 80 countries accelerating efforts, including Nigeria, Turkey, Pakistan, Nepal, etc.; World Health Assembly in May adopted 1990 targets
- 4) Growth monitoring: slower progress.
- 5) Maintaining momentum where national administration shifts e.g. Colombia, Haiti.
- 6) Mobilizing all for health for all - "social mobilization"
- 7) Health through knowledge
- 8) Growing potential for expanding new ethic of world response to loud emergencies to encompass CSDR components of silent emergencies [see SWC'87 Summary (page 3)]

#### IV Joint WHO-UNICEF Executive Board commitments and collaboration

- 1) Priority for social mobilization - late 1980s focus on immunization
- 2) Emerging issues: (a) AIDS (b) Smoking or Health (WHA Resolution follow up)

#### V Children in especially difficult circumstances

- 1) El Salvador - third year for three "days of tranquillity" has been completed for 1987; Central American "Children as a Bridge for Peace" initiative - April 5; elsewhere (Sri Lanka, Uganda)
- 2) UNICEF report on Children in the Front Line States and South Africa (see Africa)
- 3) Street Children - establishment of ChildHope

#### VI Africa

- 1) Children on the Front Line: the impact of apartheid, destabilization and warfare
- 2) UN General Assembly Special Session in May 1986: Sport Aid role, Special Session follow-up, including Dakar Symposium of African Intellectuals and Artists, and its follow-up.
- 3) CSDR acceleration, particularly UCI: 1986 as "Year of Immunization" in Africa - 6 African countries will reach 1990 goal in 1987

VII Mobilization of global "people power" for children

- 1) Sport Aid
- 2) First Earth Run
- 3) Eurovision trans-national "Gala" broadcast for UNICEF
- 4) 2nd World All-Star Soccer Game for UNICEF at the Rosebowl
- 5) UNICEF's 40th Anniversary (11 December) and history publications

VIII The United Nations in crisis

- 1) U.S. financial withholdings and the "UN reform" effort challenge international system to break standard bureaucratic patterns; viability of individual international institutions may well depend on their ability and willingness to maximize efficiency of operation and cost-effectiveness of programme objectives
- 2) UNICEF Executive Board and Secretariat anticipated "decade of rude awakenings" as early as 1981, and began intense examination of programme as well as operational systems - this led to CSDR approach of achieving maximum impact at low cost, as well as to major streamlining of UNICEF operations, with massive further reductions in Headquarters personnel and re-deployment of staff to field (now at 85%) with greater efficiency of operations

IX Historic cycle

Some 5 centuries after establishment of first state-sponsored institution for children - the Spedale degli Innocenti foundling home in Florence, which has been in continuous operation for children since 1\_\_\_ - the world society's commitment to children returns there, with establishment of UNICEF's International Child Development Centre