UNICEF Celebrates World Statistics Day - 20 October 2010

On **20 October 2010**, the world will celebrate World Statistics Day for the first time. This past July, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon called on world leaders to:

" … make this historic World Statistics Day a success by acknowledging and celebrating the role of statistics in the social and economic development of our societies and by dedicating further efforts and resources to strengthening national statistical capacity."

UNICEF is proud to join a large number of national and international organizations to acknowledge the service provided by the global statistical system on that day. World Statistics Day (WSD) is being celebrated in over 100 countries and by international and regional organizations. For a comprehensive overview of the planned activities, please visit the World Statistics Day website.

We encourage Country and Regional Offices to mark the occasion by joining activities already organized by Government and/or other UN agencies (details of what your country is organizing can be found on the WSD website) or by issuing a press release or a story on your country/regional websites highlighting UNICEF's support to data collection, analysis and dissemination in your country or region.

At UNICEF HQ we are planning a series of activities to mark World Statistics Day which includes issuing a news note and organizing a comprehensive exhibit in the lobby of UNICEF House highlighting UNICEF's role as a global leader on statistics for children. The exhibit will address the important role UNICEF plays in supporting countries in the collection, analysis and use of data to improve the lives of children and women.

1. **Data Collection** – UNICEF actively supports governments to implement Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (**MICS**). The MICS data have become a key source of information to assess the situation of children and women, as well as monitoring progress towards the MDGs and other international goals and targets. Over the past 15 years, 200 MICS surveys have been implemented in over 100 countries. Currently, the fourth round of MICS is being conducted in over 40 countries.

MICS data can be disaggregated by geographic regions, as well as social and demographic background characteristics, making MICS one of the most important tools for assessing inequities within the population to ensure that we are not leaving behind millions of the world's most disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalized children. MICS reports, technical documentation and full country datasets are available at: www.childinfo.org.

2. **Data Analysis** – UNICEF maintains a series of global databases for tracking the situation of children and women. UNICEF's databases are updated annually drawing on the wealth of data maintained by UNICEF's wide network of field offices. These data are used extensively by governments and development partners and are the basis for high level reports including the Secretary General's Report on MDG Progress, UNICEF flagship publications (*The State of the World's Children* and *Progress for Children - Achieving the MDGs with Equity),*a series of sector-specific reports (child and maternal mortality, malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoeal diseases, nutrition, immunization, HIV/AIDS, water and sanitation, etc.). UNICEF, along with WHO, is the lead agency for tracking progress towards the health related MDGs.

3. **Methodological Work** – UNICEF leads and/or plays an active role in a series of MDG inter-agency monitoring groups that are responsible for developing and validating new methodologies for estimating trends, selecting new indicators and monitoring tools, building statistical capacity at country level, developing joint estimates, and harmonizing monitoring work across partners**.**

4. **Data Dissemination and Use** – UNICEF, together with other UN agencies, supports the development of DevInfo software, adaptations of which are currently used in more than 130 countries to track progress against national development targets (DevInfo.org). UNICEF's public access global databases and analytical reports are available on www.childinfo.org along with statistical country profiles highlighting key indicators, MDG equity fact sheets, and an interactive site displaying the most recent data from the PFC report on achieving the MDGs with equity. DevInfo is an effective tool to display data on equity through charts and maps.

Please join us in celebrating UNICEF's significant contribution in statistics for children and women worldwide on World Statistics Day.

UNICEF, 7 October 2010