



Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Women Development,
Social Welfare and Special Education

National Report on Follow-up to The World Summit for Children

*National Commission for Child Welfare and Development,
Ministry of Women Development, Social Welfare and Special Education,
Government of Pakistan.*

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SECTION-I

A: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

I.I Introduction and Background

- i. The 1990 World Summit for Children (WSC) was a global landmark event; Pakistan as one of the six initiator countries with foresight and conviction put together the largest gathering of world leaders at the United Nations. The outcome was the World Declaration and Plan of Action which established guiding principles and a set of goals for the year 2000.
- ii. Ten years later an unprecedented meeting of the UN General Assembly dedicated to the children and adolescents of the world, the Special Session on Children (SSC) will be held in September, 2001. Pakistan affirms its commitment to getting the “first call for children”. In pursuance of General Assembly Resolution 54/93 which invites governments to undertake reviews of progress achieved since the World Summit for Children (WSC), extensive country preparation is in hand.
- iii. For the purpose of preparation of the Secretary General’s report, Governments have been requested by UNICEF to submit a short summary report, based on a prescribed format. This National Report is Pakistan’s response. The outcome of Pakistan’s national reviews and wide ranging activities has resulted in a wealth of information. It is expected that by the Special Session a broad range of analysis, discussion papers, survey reports and an information kit will be available for national, regional and international use.
- iv. The End Decade Review is an important follow-up because it will assess the fulfillment of development goals set at the 1990 World Summit for Children. The objective is to advance children’s basic survival, protection, development and participation by completion of the unfinished agenda of the 1990s and through identification of future strategies and interventions.
- v. Pakistan has exhibited a sustained and consistent commitment to the rights of the child. This flows from the country being an Islamic State and thereby has an obligation towards protecting its children.
- vi. Islam enjoins parental responsibility and the family is the basic unit of society. Parents are called upon to give “full attention to the upbringing of their children and their maintenance. They are also responsible for building their character. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was a most affectionate caretaker of children. He raised the status of children in general and particularly of the female children... He declared that all children are innocent and sinless; and we should adopt merciful and sympathetic attitude towards them... Islam has raised the status of the daughters in the society.... The parents should not prefer their sons to daughters. They should be treated alike and all sorts of distinctions and inequalities between the sons and daughters should be rooted out... It ensures absolute right of women in different capacities”¹
- vii. Pakistan’s commitment to children is enshrined in the Constitution. Article 35 of the Constitution binds the State to “protect.... the mother and the child” and Article 37 lays down commitments for promoting social justice and eradication of social evils. This includes removing “illiteracy and providing free and compulsory secondary education” {Article 37(b)} and “... ensuring that children and women are not employed in vocations unsuited to their age or sex....” {Article 37(e)}.
- viii. Pakistan as such not only gave the first “call for children” by setting up international targets for the welfare and development of children during the 1990s but was also one of the first countries to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). In 1989, this Convention which set the foundation for WSC, codified the rights of the world’s youngest citizens. It is, as it should be, the most widely accepted human rights treaty and it came into force in less time than any other human rights convention.

¹ The Rights of Allah and Human Rights, Abdur Rehman Shad, Kazi Publications, 1981, pp.91,98

ix. Pakistan's commitment to the needs of children goes much beyond the CRC and the WSC. Even before initiating WSC, Pakistan had demonstrated its commitment towards the betterment of children by celebrating the International Year of the Child in 1979. This was followed by various SAARC Conferences where focus was on children's issues. In the spirit of these conferences, Pakistan had been committed to achieving the rights of the child in the development perspective of the "whole child" and of "all children". This commitment was seen as a basic condition for Pakistan's transformation into a truly progressive nation. This in a sense set into motion the initiative which led to WSC in 1990.

x. **World Summit for Children Delegation**

Pakistan had the distinction of being one of the six-initiator countries of the WSC. Pakistan's delegation was led by the Foreign Minister who was ranked equivalent to the Deputy Prime Minister of the country.

1.2 **Immediate Follow-Up Actions:**

- i. Pakistan's expression of its commitment to the outcome of the WSC was an immediate follow-up whereby the World Declaration and Plan of Action was examined and a draft National Programme of Action (NPA) was prepared. This examination ensured that the provisions of the CRC were the foundation of the NPA draft document.
- ii. Government set up a two step process for consideration and approval of the NPA. The first step was participatory whereby wide consultation was held on the draft NPA as also the outcome documents of the WSC which were contexted in the CRC. This was achieved through the National Conference on Children, which was convened in Islamabad in December 1990. It was attended by parliamentarians and jurists, politicians, mass media experts, religious scholars, writers, artists, intellectuals, professionals, policy makers and planners as well as representatives of NGOs. After deliberating on the issues of survival, protection and development of children in Pakistan, the Conference adopted the Islamabad Declaration, which reaffirmed government's commitment to the WSC and called for adoption of the NPA.
- iii. After this valuable input from stakeholders, the second step of the process was finalization of the NPA within the framework and context of the country's National Plan. This ensured it became a live document and would move into implementation after government procedures were followed. Pakistan's NPA was next contexted in Social Action Programme (SAP) which was among the main thrusts of the Eighth National Plan (For an overview of SAP see Box 1.1). It was developed by a task force comprising leading social planners and was approved by the Eighth Plan SAP Committee. It was further strengthened by strategic principles, specific to Pakistan's context and understanding of constraints on human development. The basic structure and design of the NPA stemmed from the situation of children and women in Pakistan as related to their multiple unmet needs in the areas of health, nutrition, education, recreation, socialization and protection.

Box 1.1: **SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMME-SAP**

"During the 1980s, Pakistan was the fifth fastest growing economy in the world. However, in terms of human development, the country ranked 120th on the human development index. Three major reasons identified for the slow moving indicators included: (i) resources allocated to social sectors were too low; (ii) rapidly growing population, and (iii) serious implementation constraints, on the efficient and productive use of resources, that were made available to the social sectors.

As a response to this grave imbalance, the government developed a Social Action Programme (SAP) in 1992/93, which addressed the needs of primary education (especially female education), primary health, population welfare and rural water and sanitation. The first phase of SAP (1992-1996), launched at a total cost of US\$ 7.7 billion, intended to improve the coverage, quality and effectiveness of service delivery in these sectors. Actively supported by the donor community, SAP was developed and implemented at the provincial level.

The overall SAP strategy comprised three critical elements:-

- improving implementation: by addressing the issues related to poor planning and budgeting, institutional constraints such as bureaucratic delays in release of budgeted funds, lack of trained staff, staff absenteeism, and lack of input supplies, etc. so that social service delivery can be improved.
- Improving programme design: by shifting focus to basic services rather than higher-level services, and targeting poor women and girls especially in far flung rural areas, and by improving service quality to improve the access to social services.
- Increasing level of effort: by increasing government expenditure on basic social services.

“The second phase of SAP (1997-2001/2), costing over US\$ 10 billion, has been evolved, to consolidate the outcomes of the first phase, with the following cross sectoral objectives to improve quality, efficiency, sustainability and governance.

- Continue increasing the non-salary portion of the recurrent budget, to ensure adequate provisions of quality inputs.
- Improve governance through merit-based staff recruitment, facilitate site selection and employment incentives, and measures to reduce absenteeism among staff.
- Strengthen government systems of service delivery through improved planning, management, monitoring and implementation, including financing non-government provision of services, and
- Increase community and beneficiary participation.

Under SAP-II, the scope of some areas has been widened, with education extended to include middle-level schooling, health expanded to incorporate tehsil-level facilities (tehsil hospitals) and peri-urban areas covered under water supply and sanitation. The important role of non-formal education (NFE) as a means of improving literacy and educational levels, has also been recognized”.*

* Basic Education in Pakistan; Dr.Eshya Mujahid-Mukhtar, UNESCO, Sept. 1999, Pages 14-16

1.3 **National Plan of Action**

- i. The World Summit for Children was followed by the development of a detailed “National Programme of Action for the Goals for Children and Development in the 1990s (NPA)”. A national level inter-ministry task force headed by Chief of Policy Planning, Planning and Development Division worked on the NPA.
- ii. The NPA is a comprehensive planning document. It gave a plan of action to work towards and achieve the WSC goals. It tabulated the national indicators and targets to achieve these goals and also identified the financial resources required for this. The policy planners framed the NPA, not as a “special or additional programme for children but... (a) planned response to their unmet basic human needs conceived in context of SAP which it was identified was among main thrusts of the Eighth Five Year Plan (1993-1998).² The national level goals were further to be disaggregated by provinces as social development programmes are the responsibility of provincial governments. There was a provision for taking such disaggregated goals down to the levels of the

² Pakistan National Programme of action for Goals for Children and Development in 1990s; Government of Pakistan, Planning Commission (Para 2)

district and union councils at the grass roots and in the field. The NPA also provided for provincial plans of action.

- iii. Government's commitment to a continued improvement of the condition of children in Pakistan was clearly reflected in the NPA which stated that it "will serve as a ten year perspective for Pakistan's SAP (and is) not a self terminating special programme to address an urgent or specific problem but part of planning strategy and policy framework for transition to the 21st Century".³

1.4 **Mechanism established for Periodic Review of Progress.**

- i. The NPA gave a detailed monitoring system which was to be put in place for reviewing progress of goals. It included identification of social and process indicators disaggregated by age and gender, for each province, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Federally Administered Areas. Information was to be collected and analysed at the provincial levels as well. At the national level existing functions of Federal Bureau of Statistics were to be strengthened and steps taken for assuring quality and frequency of data generation. It was also planned to involve the local communities in data generation and monitoring of the goals as well as related services.
- ii. The NPA also indicated that "progress towards goals will be reviewed quarterly by an Implementation and Monitoring Committee (IMC) based on data from federal and provincial levels. Secretariat of IMC will be the Projects Wing of the Planning and Development"⁴. These arrangements were subject to review as it was recognized that being part of SAP, the monitoring NPA will also be linked to a rather elaborate monitoring mechanism which was to be put in place for SAP.
- iii. An important recommendation of the Islamabad Declaration which has been implemented related to the mechanism for coordinated action at the national, provincial and at grass roots level for enhancing the status and care of children.

1.5 **Mid-Decade Review - Principal Findings**

- i. The Government of Pakistan and UNICEF jointly undertook a Mid-Decade Review in 1995 through a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). Ministry of Health was the focal point while Federal Bureau of Statistics, Planning Division and line Ministries were involved in finalization of technical details.
- ii. The Mid-Decade Review revealed that during the decade of the 1980s and early 1990s Pakistan had made progress in some of the stipulated goals. For example, access to basic health and primary education had expanded. The number of basic health units increased to 4,526 in 1992 from 1,587 in 1982. Similarly, the number of primary schools increased from 71, 358 to 124,171 during the same period. However, the coverage, quality and service delivery, while registering improvement did not keep pace with the rate of increase in the numerical strength of the facilities.

iii. *Findings on WSC Goals at Mid-Decade*

- a. The broad-based progress in the social sectors appeared to be hampered. The reasons for slow progress being resource constraints and an unstable security environment in the region compounded the problem. This meant that resource allocation for a number of developmental goals did not correspond with the political commitment. The interplay of these factors was further complicated because of the political uncertainty in the country during most of the period under review.
- b. Following the Mid-Decade Review, the major findings reported that while progress had been made, a number of areas required further sustained efforts. Goalwise statistical progress in 1995 is reflected on Statistical Annexure- A.

1.6 **Reports Submitted to UN Committee under Article 44 of the CRC**

³ (ibid, para 124)

⁴ (ibid, para 123)

- i. Pakistan ratified the CRC in September 1990 with a general reservation that the Convention will be interpreted in light of the provisions of the Islamic law as required by the Constitution of the country. This reservation was withdrawn upon recommendation of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Council of Islamic Ideology and the decision of the Cabinet. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally announced withdrawal of the reservation on 23rd July, 1997.
- ii. The provision of Article 44 of the CRC obligates the State Parties to submit to the UN Committee reports on the measures adopted to give effect to the rights recognized in the CRC. Pakistan fulfilled its obligation by submitting initial report to the assigned UN Committee in January 1993.
- iii. The Report highlighted various institutional arrangements for child welfare and development in Pakistan. Pertinent among the areas identified were health, education, religious and minority affairs, law and justice, special education and social welfare. It was indicated therein that at the federal level National Commission for Child Welfare and Development (NCCWD) was the lead agency, charged with the responsibility of establishing linkages, maintaining liaison and affecting coordination of policies and programs relating to the CRC. At provincial level and in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Commissions for Child Welfare and Development have also been set up with the adequate governmental and non-governmental representation for promotion of child welfare activities. Similarly a cell in the Federally Administered Northern Area has also been created.
- iv. The Report highlighted measures adopted by Pakistan to harmonize national laws and policies in line with the CRC. These included the following:-
 - Constitutional provisions to guarantee all economic, social and cultural rights of the child.
 - Compilation of existing laws and legislation concerning children into a single document to facilitate an overview of legal protections available for children.
 - Revision of various laws in the light of the provisions of the CRC.
 - Study, sponsored by UNICEF, of the Constitution and other prevalent laws with reference to the CRC revealed that the provisions of the CRC were generally comparable with the provisions of the Constitution of Pakistan as well as the other prevalent laws.
 - Enactment of new laws such as Employment of Children Act, 1991, enacted to give effect to the relevant articles of the CRC. This law prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in certain occupations and regulates the conditions of their work. It also ensures protection of children from economic exploitation and from performing any work hazardous to their health. The Act also lays down a standard legal definition of the term child and thereby removes the anomalies resulting from different age limits prescribed under different laws.
 - Comprehensive laws on narcotics made in conformity with the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 1988. These laws also cover provisions of Article 33 of the CRC.
 - Islamabad Declaration on Survival, Protection and Development of Child adopted by the National Conference on Children convened in 1990 in pursuance of Article 42 of CRC.

v. **Observations/Statements by the United Nations Review Committee**

- a. The UN Committee while welcoming the report expressed certain reservations on its structure. It indicated the need for further efforts by the Government for ensuring implementation of the CRC and noted the commitment made by Pakistan's representative in this regard. The Committee called for another progress report by 1996.
- b. On the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, a three member delegation of the UN Committee on the CRC visited Pakistan in October, 1995 to seek first hand knowledge on the implementation position of the CRC. During their visit the Committee members appreciated the efforts of Pakistan Government and civil society for improving the situation of children. The Committee members recommended that the federal and provincial governments strengthen their respective Commissions entrusted with task of coordination of the CRC implementation by providing them required resources and further that the UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNESCO, ILO etc., must cooperate and provide considerable technical and financial assistance to the Government of Pakistan to facilitate implementation of the CRC.

vi. **Steps Taken in Response to the UN Committee's Comments**

- a. A comprehensive progress report has recently been completed by the Ministry of Women Development, Social Welfare and Special Education & National Commission for Child Welfare and Development (NCCWD) in accordance with the recommendations made by the UN Committee. This report deals with the initiatives of the Government of Pakistan in each area covered by the CRC. It also explains the work done by NGOs and highlights the participation of child rights activists in the entire spectrum of activities.
- b. National Expert Committees have been constituted for promoting the rights of the child in the priority areas covered under the CRC. These areas are health, education, juvenile justice system, registration at birth, child labour and the protection of rights of child as well protection for children from abuse and neglect. The primary task of the committees is to review existing legislation and policies in practice and to propose new legislation while indicating the gaps between legislation and policies.
- c. In recent years in Pakistan, there has been heightened activity in the areas of health and education for children. In addition, the rehabilitation of working children and widespread awareness of the issues pertaining to child labour have also been a priority concern for policy makers and legislators alike. The increased awareness has led to the development of various monitoring mechanisms for effective coordination of Government's policy initiatives. One such being the District Based Monitoring System (DBMS).
- d. Government and NGOs have done considerable work to remove prejudices and further the principle of non-discrimination. There is now no discrimination against children with disabilities or against children belonging to different provincial affiliation or linguistic, religious and economic status. There is also no discrimination against refugee children.
- e. There have been considerable legislative efforts to protect children. The laws in Pakistan acknowledge the importance of protecting the best interests of children. An example is the corpus of family laws, especially on guardian and wards. The Constitution and criminal law also safeguard the right of the child to survival and development. Broad ranges of provisions of the criminal law seek to secure this principle.
- f. In almost all activities international cooperation, particularly with UNICEF, has been significant.

SECTION-II

B: PROCESS ESTABLISHED FOR THE END-DECADE REVIEW

2.1. **Introduction**

The End Decade Review (EDR) process in Pakistan has the highest level of commitment, from the government as well as the civil society. The Chief Executive of Pakistan has designated Dr. Attiya Inayatullah, Federal Minister for Population Welfare, Women Development, Social Welfare and Special Education as his personal representative to carry out the review within the UNICEF global framework, as well as to plan thematic events and special activities leading upto Special Session on Children (SSC) 2001.

2.2. **National Review**

An all inclusive approach which was fully participatory, including children and adolescents, as well as being nation-wide was established for the EDR.

2.3. **National Steering Committee**

A National Steering Committee (NSC) has been set up jointly chaired by Dr. Attiya Inayatullah, the Federal Minister for Population Welfare, Women Development, Social Welfare and Special Education and Mrs. Zubaida

Jalal, Federal Minister for Education. The NSC has representation from leading NGOs / CSOs, UNICEF and federal government agencies. The four provincial governments are represented through their Ministers for Social Welfare. The responsibility for overseeing preparation of this report as well as the other events has been managed by the National Steering Committee. The NSC has the following terms of reference:-

- a. Oversight, co-ordination and facilitation of all plans and activities for national review of implementation of WSC goals and preparations for SSC 2001.
- b. Review of National Plan of Action and the role and structure of National Commission for Child Welfare and Development (NCCWD) as well as Provincial CCWDs to strengthen institutional mechanisms for achievement of child related goals and objectives.
- c. Adoption of programmes for widespread public awareness of child rights and WSC goals through better contact and collaboration with NGOs/ CBOs, individuals and academia engaged in child welfare and development so as to raise the level of organized activity.
- d. Initiatives at the regional/ international level and in the UN to sustain and carry forward the pioneer role of Pakistan in child development based on national consensus and close inter-ministerial co-ordination.

2.4. **Follow Up Unit to backstop National Steering Committee**

- a. To facilitate the review process and SSC preparatory activity, a Follow Up Unit was set up to backstop the National Steering Committee. The Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Women Development, Social Welfare and Special Education who is also the Vice Chairman of NCCWD, is officer-in-charge of the Follow Up Unit.
- b. Technical assistance was provided by UNICEF on a need basis at the national and provincial levels.
- c. The secretariats of the Follow Up Unit and NCCWD have been merged.
- d. Based on UNICEF stated purpose of EDR, a carefully structured matrix questionnaire was devised and universally administered for standardized generation of information. The provincial governments and NGO reports were based on this.
- e. Integration of WSC follow-up with other major UN Conferences particularly the Beijing Women's Conference, Cairo ICPD, the Copenhagen Social Summit and Vienna Human Rights Conference.

2.5 **Role of Civil Society Organizations**

All civil society players are actively engaged and have played a central role in the EDR and in development of SSC 2001 activities. The major NGOs are on National and Provincial Steering Committees. National NGOs contributed to the Report through their response in the matrix questionnaire. In addition the draft review report was repeatedly shared with CSOs and their comments were obtained. NGOs also conducted a number of activities to raise awareness of child rights. Such activities are planned to continue till SSC in September, 2001.

2.6 **Federal Reviews**

The issues of WSC Plan of Action and CRC being cross cutting a number of federal ministries also participated in providing reports for inclusion in the EDR. Key partners being Health, Education, Foreign Affairs, Population, Law, Human Rights and Labour.

2.7 **Provincial Reviews**

Provincial reviews using the matrix questionnaires were conducted through Provincial Steering Committees (PSCs). They involved the range of principal government departments and civil society stakeholders in

conducting the reviews and leading a programme of events for the whole year. PSC Reports formed the basis of the national review.

2.8 Studies/ Surveys/ Discussions/ Debates

The national and provincial reviews have been supported by workshops and seminars. Various studies, surveys and situation papers have also been commissioned by the NSC to better understand problems areas of children and emerging issues. Time bound Task Forces are also addressing crucial areas, such as nutrition and basic education.

2.9 Participation by children/ adolescents

The National Steering Committee was fully alert to the need to include and give an opportunity to children to participate in the review process and be owners of CRC awareness activities in the community. As such amongst other steps, a special questionnaire on WSC goals relating to their health and well being was devised and administered to adolescents and children. To date some 1500 responses are available. A summary overview is at box 2.1. The 5000 respondent report will be available for SSC in addition to being a valuable planning tool. Children have also participated with adults in the draft report consultation meetings. A girl child involved in child labour and since placed in school and her family rehabilitated, has been selected to be on the NSC and represent Pakistan at SSC in September, 2001.

2.10 Role of Media

National Steering Committee recognized that media had a clearly assigned role in the review process and CRC awareness. Prominent media personnel are on the Steering Committee. They have through a Task Force devised a Media Strategy for radio, television, print media and interpersonal communication. An important intervention, especially in interpersonal communication is the organizing by youth and children activities which are for and by them.

Box 2.1: WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN GOALS: CHILDREN'S PERSPECTIVE

Through a survey, the views of about 1500 children from all over the country were obtained to know their perspective on various issues affecting their health and well being. A summary overview is given below:-

QUESTION	ANSWER	
- Key health problem for under 5 children.	Weakness	60%
- 3 key causes of health problems of children.	a. Air pollution	60%
	b. Lack of medical facilities.	49%
	c. Impure food and water	45%
- Are existing health facilities sufficient?	No	
- Major actions by Govt. during last decade for improving child health?	a. Anti Polio Campaign	88%
	b. Child Immunization	87%
- Actions by Government to improve health of mothers?	Family Planning Services	66%
- Sources of drinking water.	a. Tap Water	44%
	b. Hand Pump	30%
- Is your drinking water good for health?	Yes	58%
- Drainage facility available?	Open Drains	64%
- Toilets being used?	Flush/ Pour Flush Latrines.	90%
- Educational facility available in your area?	a. Primary school for girls & boys exist in 81-85% responses.	
	b. High school for girls and boys exist in 75-77%	
- 3 most crucial problems in schools in your	a. No drinking water	67%

area?	b. Absence of teachers	61%
	c. Rundown building	54%
- Two most important sources of information?	a. T.V.	89%
	b. Radio	73%
- Major responsibility of children?	To study	75%

2.11 Dissemination of Findings of EDR

Findings of EDR were shared with all the relevant stakeholders as well as the media. These were subject of provincial and national level consultations. A number of national and provincial consultations took place during finalization of National and Provincial EDR Reports. Approval by the National Steering Committee was sought before formal approval by the Government. After submitting the NR to UN Headquarters, the process of national review is planned to continue as the studies, papers and other events unfold. It is expected that major policy initiatives in the area of child rights will be launched during and after the national review leading upto SSC 2001. The process and the momentum generated is set to continue well after the SSC 2001.

SECTION-III

C: ACTION AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS (PARAGRAPHS 34 & 35 OF THE WSC)

3.1 Action at the National Level

Para 34 of the WSC Plan of Action stipulates that “children specific actions proposed must be pursued as part of strengthening broader national development programmes combining revitalized economic growth, poverty reduction, human resource development and environmental protection. Such programmes must also strengthen community organizations, inculcate civic responsibility and be sensitive to the cultural heritage and social values which support progress without alienation of the younger generation”.

3.2 Progress has been achieved in seven specific areas identified in the UNICEF prescribed format as follows.

- (i) *“The extent to which the National Plans of Action have achieved their intended purposes, including the extent to which the development and subsequent implementation of NPAs has been integrated with, or influenced national planning processes and budget allocations for children”.*

The NPA for Pakistan was integrated into the national five year plans. As such it became a main thrust of the planning process. Social Action Programme (SAP) which has run effectively for last eight years was predicated on the NPA. The budgetary allocations in social sectors were protected under SAP. Despite unprecedented financial hardships experienced during the decade following WSC, Pakistan was able to make comparatively a good headway in the sectors relating to children.

- (ii) *“The degree of priority accorded to programmes for the well being of children in national plans, programmes and policies”.*

As stated before, SAP with a major emphasis on children, was the cornerstone of economic policy and programmes during the decade. As such the national plans, policies and programmes gave high priority to children. This reflected government’s continued commitment in the field of child rights. There were however peculiar constraints which hampered progress. These have been referred to elsewhere in this report.

- (iii) *“The priority given in national budgets to the allocation of resources for children”.*

The budgetary allocations for SAP exhibited consistent growth from 1992 to 2000. Total allocations for SAP grew from Rs.26.6 billion in 1992-93 to Rs.68.034 billion in 1999-2000. A growth unprecedented in the past. Expenditures jumped from Rs.22.785 billion to Rs.45.805 billion in the corresponding period.

(iv) *“The roles played by families, communities, local governments, NGOs, social cultural religious, business and other institutions, including the mass media”.*

a. *“Role of families and communities”*

- i. In Pakistan, Islamic injunctions are the derivative of social conduct, norms and value system. As such, it is relevant to state that Islam provides clear guiding principles to provide basic necessities and protection to its young ones irrespective of gender, class and origin. Children including orphans have been made the objects of particular care. “Their proper upbringing and the due administration of their well being and property must be ensured. Detailed directions are laid down with regard to the guardianship of minors and the administration of their property...The Quran reinforces the guardian’s obligation towards the minor in very emphatic language...*Let those who deal with minors have the same circumspection in their minds as they would wish for in respect of their own little ones. 4; 10-11”*⁵.
- ii. The family system in Pakistan provides a traditional safety net to all the family members. Women and children enjoy emotional, social and economic security not found in many other systems. Joint family systems and extended family systems are prevalent. Even people living in nuclear families have close links with their extended families. The family structure of Pakistan has a profound stabilizing affect on children. Children are strongly conditioned by the Islamic code of ethics, morality and Quranic instructions regarding parental responsibility towards children and vice versa.
- iii. Pakistan has always aimed to preserve a congenial family life based on strong community bonds. Protection of marriage, family, mother and child is an acknowledged principle of policy under Article 35 of the Constitution of Pakistan. This is further strengthened by the inviolability of the privacy of the home, which is a fundamental right under Article 14 of the Constitution. These provisions support parental guidance through the institution of marriage and the strengthening of the family as the primary unit of the social system, within the inviolable right of privacy of the home. Respect for the responsibility, rights and authority of parents flows naturally from these provisions and are also supported considerably by the Islamic traditions and norms.

b. *Role of Local Governments*

- i. Traditionally the urban local governments manage urban schools. This role is now progressively being shared with private sector institutions. Similarly maintenance of infrastructure in health, communication and agriculture, including livestock sectors is a local government function meant to supplement government’s efforts in these areas. As such local governments play an important role in social sectors. Their effectiveness has in the past been hampered by resource constraints and low tax base in smaller cities and rural areas.
- ii. Pakistan under the present government is progressing towards a viable, effective and financially autonomous local council system. This is to come into place by August, 2001. Majority of the provincial functions are being devolved to these new local councils. It is envisaged that major improvements in planning and execution of programmes will take place following the restructuring of the local government system.

c. *Role of NGOs*

- i. Civil society has been attempting consistently to raise issues facing the children of Pakistan. During the last decade, it has succeeded in bringing to public debate several issues particularly those relating to child labour and juvenile justice. The NGOs have not only highlighted these questions but have also presented in many instances low-cost, workable and practical solutions and policies. In the recent past, NGOs have raised the

⁵ Islam and Human Rights, Muhammad Zafarullah Khan, 1988 p.43

issue of juvenile prisoners. The present government has been receptive and has released many children from different jails in the last few months.

- ii. In addition to this, a large number of NGOs are running non-formal basic education schools offering free primary education to children from low-income families who are otherwise not able to afford their education. These NGOs are supplementing governmental efforts to increase literacy rate of the country. For orphan and destitute children hundreds of charities and trusts are operating. The most conspicuous, primarily for their good work, are Anjuman-e-Faizul Islam, Edhi Welfare Centres and SOS Children Villages.
- iii. NGOs have always come to the aid of government and international agencies in the arena of child rights. They are participating in programmes for child education, rehabilitation of child workers and have secured the release of children and their families from bonded labour in many parts of the country. NGO's role has also been instrumental in Sialkot Project under which at least 7,000 children have been removed from the soccer ball manufacturing and are being given education in NGO-run schools. NGOs have also raised the issue of child sexual abuse in the country. They are mainly working on raising awareness of parents and children themselves on how to guard against exploitation.
- iv. NGOs are now being encouraged by the government to play a more leading role in various areas in social sectors. NGOs however, themselves acknowledge that they cannot solve all the major problems facing the society. Their inputs do make government's policies more people oriented and sustainable.

d. Roles of Social and Cultural Institutions

The private and public sector cultural organizations are also working for the cause of the children. Arts Councils set up in all major cities hold regular programmes and festivals for children and a number of private performance arts groups work to highlight and raise awareness of child rights

e. Role of Religious Institutions

- i. Pakistan is an Islamic State. As such it has a wide network of religious organizations which run schools providing religious education. Most of these boarding schools take care of children from poor families in rural and urban areas. Majority of the *madrassahs* also provide formal education atleast upto primary levels. According to a study in 1995 there were 3,706 religious institutions run by the private sector through philanthropic and self-help efforts. In addition to religious education, these institutions were imparting basic primary level education and providing full residential facilities to the non-local students alongwith free food and other basic need items.
- ii. In addition to these, religious bodies also run orphanages to take care of children in difficult circumstances.

f. Role of Business and Private Sector Institutions

- i. Private sector has gradually grown into an effective actor in providing various inputs for well being of children ranging from health and education to clean water in the cities. Currently private sector operates in additions to professional colleges and universities:-
 - 40,000 primary schools with 4.37 million students.
 - 6,000 middle schools with 1.44 million students.
 - 4,000 high schools with 515,000 students. *

ii. Similarly in the health sector the private sector provides almost two thirds of the curative services as well as some preventive and family planning services.

g. Role of Mass Media

Media in Pakistan has played a significant role in creating awareness on child rights issues and has been successful in bringing a sea-change in public perception regarding the status of children. Print and electronic media allocates regular time and space to child rights issues including primary education, challenges like infant mortality, health and nutrition gaps and lack of equal opportunities among children. NGO activity on these issues is given generous space and is responded to with a warm and supportive feed back from readers. Media, during the last ten years has struck hard on the culture of indifference and neglect against children. Reporting incidents of child rights violations has sensitized readers and motivated them into becoming vocal and effective pressure groups. Electronic media has also brought about a massive change in public perception regarding child rights and has helped create an environment of care and concern for children.

(v) “ *The development of mechanisms for the regular and timely collection, analysis and publication of data to monitor social indicators relating to the well being of children*”.

Ministry of Statistics, Census Organization, Federal and Provincial Bureaus of Statistics, Planning Commission, Finance Division, line Ministries and a number of research bodies have all set up elaborate mechanisms for collection, analysis, and publication of data to monitor social as well as other economic and developmental indicators. A credible national data base exists which is being strengthened through introduction of surveys like the Pakistan Integrated Household Survey as well as the improvement in health and education management information systems (HIMS-EMIS). NCCWD has already experimented with a pilot District Based Monitoring System (DBMS) which is being strengthened for implementation later this year. This would be an additional input into the data collection and analysis at the grass-roots level.

(vi) “*Arrangements for responding to natural disasters and man-made calamities*”.

An Emergency Relief Cell in the Cabinet Secretariat at the federal level coordinates management of relief efforts in cases of natural calamities and disasters. At provincial and field level relief commissioners are in place to manage relief operations after such untoward incidents. Whether it is evacuation of flood affectees or relief work following earthquakes or droughts, priority is always accorded to women and children. In the past six years the federal government has disbursed cash relief to affectees to the tune of Rs.1.431 billion following various disasters.

(vii) “*Efforts by governments, industry and academic institutions to increase basic and operational research, aimed at new technical and technological breakthroughs, more effective social mobilization and better delivery of existing social services*”.

a. National Institute of Health (NIH); Pakistan Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR), Agha Khan University Hospital, Federal Government Services Hospital, Provincial Health Departments are some of the institutions conducting meaningful research into various areas crucial for children. The priority presently is the bridging of the nutrition gap for children suffering from protein energy malnutrition (PEM).

b. With a view to more effective social mobilization and better delivery of services, SAP projects in health, education, rural water supply and sanitation and population welfare are moving away from top down implementation models towards involvement of communities. A sense of ownership of the project is considered necessary. School Management Committees and project committees of the community for rural water supply schemes are two examples of this mode of thinking. This is a recognition of the fact that without actively involving the beneficiaries, the optimal benefits of any government intervention in the social sectors are rarely realized.

3.3 Action at the International Level (Paragraph 35 of the WSC)

Paragraph 35 addresses “action at the international level”. The “best interest of the child” being universal, the question is have we been able to create an enabling international environment for implementation of the Plan of Action? Global commitments have been made. Conventions have been written and ratified. The time is to act now. Pakistan in the new millennium scenario of globalization, views the Special Summit for Children 2001 as an opportunity for a consensus that children’s lives and future cannot be put on hold. For the mobilization of financial resources, industrialized nations will be invited to revisit their levels of ODA, and also examine the possibility of debt relief .

SECTION-IV

D: SPECIFIC ACTIONS FOR CHILD SURVIVAL, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT

- 4.1 The Statistical End-Decade Goal Report is at Annexure -A.
- 4.2 Various actions have been taken by Pakistan to ensure survival, protection and development of children. A review of progress achieved is given below.
- 4.3 *To disseminate and promote the earliest possible ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and, thereafter, to promote its implementation and monitoring.*
 - i. Pakistan was one of the first countries to ratify the CRC. As elaborated earlier in this report, periodic reviews have been conducted and reports submitted to the UN Committee under Article 44 of the CRC.
 - ii. Implementation of the CRC has been seriously addressed and is documented in detail in Pakistan’s latest report to the UN Committee. A few highlights are as follows:-

- a. Articles 6, 24 and 27:

In the areas of basic health and welfare, the most important issue is that of child survival and development. The government has launched a number of programmes and has fixed definite goals for the year 2000. The programmes include the Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI), Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases (CDD), training of lady health workers (LHWs) and traditional birth attendants (TBAs) and a comprehensive nutritional programme. By June 2000 the target for immunization had been achieved 80 percent and the target for the training of LHWs for the year 1999-2000 was fully achieved. Similarly legislative measures have been taken to provide better health care facilities. The Government has already passed a law on the use of iodized salt and expects shortly to enact legislation on breast feeding, maternity benefits [amendment bill], juvenile smoking and food fortification. Awareness campaigns on primary health care services and family planning are being carried out through print and electronic media.

- b. Article 23:

The problem of disabled children in the country has also been brought to the forefront. The Directorates of Special Education have been established at the federal and provincial levels with 49 institutions run by the federal government, 92 operated by provincial governments and 135 by NGOs. These are providing services to special children all over the country. There are also specialized institutes for early detection, prevention and rehabilitation of hearing impaired, mentally retarded, physically and visually challenged children. This is indeed impressive progress for a country which had only two schools for the blind at Independence in 1947.

- c. Articles 28 and 29

Education for All (EFA) has attained a high priority in the development plans of Pakistan. The main thrust of education policy is on preparing children to meet the challenges of the new millennium. In addition to the formal and non-formal government schools, a large number of urban schools are being

run by local governments and private sector. Similarly religious schools (*madrassahs*) provide not only formal education but, being mostly boarding schools, also provide shelter to students from poor families. The current administration seeks to bring pupils studying at *madrassahs* into the main stream of education by curriculum enhancement. With a view to universalizing primary education, the national educational policy has been revised with a strong focus on community participation.

d. Article 32

Laws pertaining to child labour are now largely in conformity with the requirements of the CRC and the ILO standards. Government is also examining the possibility of ratifying ILO Convention 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. In addition, government is taking a number of remedial steps towards rehabilitation of the working child and a National Policy and Plan of Action for Eradication of Child Labour has been approved by the Cabinet.

e. Articles 7 and 8

At birth the child has the right to be registered immediately and to have a name. The government has instituted a National Committee on Registration at Birth which is functional. It is mandated to ensure systematic and universal implementation of these rights. The existing laws will be examined and present system reviewed. Thereafter a consolidated plan of action with an enforcement mechanism will be prepared and implemented.

f. Article 40

The recently promulgated Juvenile Justice System Ordinance, 2000 has imposed a ban on the death penalty and whipping of children. It has also raised the age of child to the ILO requirement of 18 years. An implementation committee has been instituted by government to ensure proper implementation of the Ordinance.

iii. Two other important aspects of implementation of the CRC are its dissemination and availability of a data base or empirical evidence of issues. The CRC has been extensively distributed in Urdu, the national language, to professionals, adolescents and children. Some important data has been generated on emerging issues, such as, runaway and street children, child trafficking and children in intolerable forms of labour, child abuse and condition of children in jails.

4.4 *To combat childhood diseases through low-cost remedies and by strengthening primary health care and basic health services; to prioritize the prevention and treatment of AIDS; to provide universal access to safe drinking water and sanitary excreta disposal; and to control water-borne diseases.*

Two identifiable types of emergencies which shout for equal attention are those which are “loud” and others which are “silent”; herein the silent emergencies resulting from poverty, sickness, lack of knowledge and inadequate services are addressed. Childhood diseases are being addressed through an accelerated programme which is building a nation-wide capacity through community education and participation to immunize against the six main child-killer diseases, to prevent diarrhoea dehydration with oral re-hydration salts, to prevent blindness and gross mental handicaps by distributing Vitamin-A capsules and iodized salt respectively and to eliminate polio through a drops campaign. Access to safe drinking water has been greatly improved and the data indicates healthy upward percentages in both urban and rural areas. Positive trend is also present in universal access to sanitary means of excreta disposal. An Aids Control Programme is being run to ensure effective measures against HIV/ AIDS.

4.5 *To overcome malnutrition, including by ensuring household food security and by developing strategies that include employment and income-generating opportunities; dissemination of knowledge; and support to increased food production and distribution.*

The effects of malnutrition in children can be crippling. Malnutrition inhibits growth, increases risk of morbidity, affects cognitive development, and reduces subsequent school performance and labour activity.

Indicators suggest that malnutrition is still a problem in the country. Stunting, underweight and wasting are a cause of concern and concerted efforts are needed to combat this problem. Antenatal care in both rural and urban areas indicates a positive trend. Support of increased food production and distribution needs to be further enhanced. Dissemination of knowledge is a crucial issue. Household food security also requires special attention. It focuses on the family's capacity to produce and acquire food as well as the distribution of food within the household. Proper access to correct nutrition information plays a key role in this regard. The Ministry of Health has formulated number of strategies for the future. It however, will require massive financial support and technical assistance to meet the challenges. NSC has recently set up a work group to purpose measures to bridge the nutrition gap and reduce protein energy malnutrition.

4.6 *To enhance the status of girls and women and ensure their full access to health, nutrition, education, training, credit, extension, family planning, pre-natal, delivery, referral and other basic services.*

- i. Islam proscribes discrimination against women and fully protects their fundamental human rights. It gives full recognition to the role of women in the economic and social progress of nations. Based on Islamic precepts the Constitution of Pakistan guarantees the status and dignity of women and forbids discrimination on the basis or race, religion, caste or sex.
- ii. Universal literacy and quality education are keys to the empowerment of women and girls. The objective of Education for All (EFA) with special emphasis on girls has been a priority area along with health and access to productive resources. To achieve these objectives a number of initiatives have been taken which focus on expansion of female literacy through conventional and non-conventional education, skill training, market absorption through entrepreneurial advice, provision of micro-finance and renewal of curriculum and teaching methodologies for creating greater gender sensitivity. SAP pays particular attention to reduction in maternal mortality, maternity care and mal-nutrition through a life cycle approach to women's health care and closer integration of health and population welfare activities. The feminization of poverty is a serious concern and the poverty reduction programme, which has been strengthened by a diversion of Rs. 7 billion from the defense budget despite prevailing tensions in the region, seeks to redress this situation.
- iii. The government has taken a number of institutional measures to strengthen the federal ministry and provincial departments for women development. An independent National Commission on the Status of Women has been set up to oversee, coordinate, and accelerate national efforts for the empower-ment of women and elimination of all forms of discrimination against them. Other steps include review of laws discriminatory against women, 33 % representation at the grass roots representative bodies besides increasing the quota for women candidates in public sector employment. Measures have also been taken to initiate prosecution in cases of domestic violence, address sexual harassment at workplace, generate awareness against early marriages and improve conditions of women prisoners.

4.7 *To ensure support for parents and other care-givers in nurturing and caring for children; to prevent separation of children from their families and, where such separation takes place, to ensure appropriate alternative family care or institutional placement.*

In Pakistan, traditional family provides for an inherent safety set up for children. Women and children enjoy emotional, social and economic support and security not found in many other systems. Joint and extended family systems are prevalent. Protection of marriage, family, mother and child is an acknowledged principle of policy under Article 35 of the Constitution of Pakistan. This is further strengthened by the inviolability of the privacy of the home, which is a fundamental right under Article 14 of the Constitution. In addition various laws acknowledge the importance of protecting the best interests of children. An example is the corpus of family laws, especially on guardian and wards. This is indicative of the legislative efforts to protect the interests of children. The Constitution and criminal law safeguard the right of the child to survival and development. Broad range of provisions of the criminal law seek to secure this principle. Special attention is also being given to children separated from their parents. At the domestic level a number of leading NGOs are actively engaged in this area. There are a number of laws supporting these initiatives as well. At the international level the NCCWD is collaborating with International Social Services (ISS) to deal with the problem of children separated from their families. The NCCWD has also requested educational institutions to structure their courses and lay more emphasis on social casework. The recovery of maintenance for the separated child is another area where actions

have been taken. Family laws provide for such recovery and institutions like *Bait-ul-Mal* provide assistance to the deserving families.

4.8 *To ensure priority for early childhood development; universal access to basic education; reduction of adult illiteracy; vocational training and preparation for work; and increased acquisition of knowledge, skills and values through all available channels.*

- i. The acquisition of knowledge has been a pre-occupation, the focus has been on dissemination of the Child Rights Convention. Through formal and non-formal education, CRC has been demystified making it relevant to Pakistani children's daily concerns, culture and ideological base. The mass media, radio and television as also the print media have been extensively used to project the content of the CRC.
- ii. Under Education for All (EFA) presently under implementation since 1990, the goals and targets fixed in the area of primary education and literacy, include universal enrolment of primary school age children; 80% completion rate and 70% literacy rate, by the year 2002-2003.
- iii. To achieve the targets of EFA a number of innovative programmes and strategies have been adopted which, inter alia, are a Social Action Programme, launched in 1992-93, sharply focusing on accelerated development of educational facilities for basic education to promote access, make it more egalitarian, and also to improve its quality. Besides, a large number of primary education development projects/ programmes are under implementation. Steps have also been taken to eliminate gender and territorial disparities and promote public private partnership; expand teacher training network; decentralize management, introduce legislation for making primary education compulsory; teach English at primary level, develop integrated textbooks for Class I-III and integrate Nazira Quran, Islamiyat and Arabic, emphasizing character building. Focus has also been laid on community mobilization for promotion of basic education and development of minimum learning level (MLL) and assessment of basic competencies of children in Pakistan. Packages of incentives, both for teachers and students have been developed and are presently under implementation to increase enrolment, improve retention and upgrade quality particularly among rural females.
- iv. Female education has been assigned top priority. A number of policy measures and programmes on basic education for females have been initiated, which include introduction of mixed schools; provision of basic facilities and services in female primary schools in terms of boundary walls, lavatories, stipends, free books, uniforms and food; and reservation of 60% female seats in primary schools under SAP. In order to ensure availability of female teachers, 70% positions of primary school teachers have been reserved for females.
- v. Social and political mobilization and community involvement and participation is another priority area of EFA development programmes. The steps taken to achieve this objective inter alia, are establishment of village education/ school management committees (SMC) in all the four provinces of the country; establishment and strengthening of Education Foundations at federal and provincial levels introduction of public-private partnership schemes; involvement of NGOs and private sector for promotion of basic education; mobilization of communities and beneficiaries; and commitment of political parties to promote basic education followed by increased budget allocation for education.
- vi. Investment in primary education (both development and recurring) has increased from Rs.9,563 million in 1990-91 to Rs.38,674 million in 1998-99. It is a record increase of 304% in a short period of nine years. Increase in development budget is 231% (Rs.1,179 million to Rs.3904 million) and in recurring budget is 315% (Rs.8,384 million to Rs. 34,770 million).

4.9 *To ensure special attention to children living under especially difficult circumstances; including by ending their exploitation through labour; and by combating drug, tobacco and alcohol abuse among young people;*

- i. It is estimated that approximately 3.3 million children are working. They are generally engaged in agriculture, brick making, carpet weaving, assisting subcontractors of large industries, small and often hazardous unregistered enterprises, domestic service, garbage collection, work for the informal sector and the exploitative 'under world'. Child labour is prohibited, yet it persists because the laws do not cover all working children and also because of extreme poverty. Child work is also a calculated strategy to receive

training, and is influenced by the perceived irrelevance of formal education. Steps have been taken to initiate comprehensive programmes to retrieve children from early labour/ work in collaboration with international cooperation agencies and NGOs.

ii Pakistan is committed to eradication of child labour. The following measures have been taken in this regard:-

- a. The National Policy and Plan of Action has been approved by the Cabinet on May 10, 2000.
- b. The Plan defines the policies; strategies; activities and responsibilities of different agencies; timeframe; delivery system; and funding resources for child labour elimination.
- c. The strategies adopted in the Plan are:-
 - Progressive elimination of child labour from all economic sectors.
 - Immediate withdrawal of children from worst forms of child labour.
 - Preventing entry of under-aged children into the labour market through universalization of primary education and family empowerment.
 - Rehabilitation of working children through non-formal education, pre-vocational training and skill development.
- d. A Fund for education of working children and rehabilitation of bonded labourers has been instituted, in April 2000, with an initial amount of Rs.100 million.
- e. The National Committee on the Rights of the Child has also been constituted under the Employment of Children Act, 1991 to advise the government on effective implementation of this law.
- f. The Government encourages NGOs, workers and employers' organizations to undertake different activities and projects addressing the issue of child labour.
- g. Withdrawal of children from hazardous work and their rehabilitation through informal education and mainstreaming them into the regular education channel is an important element of the child labour elimination programme.
- h. The National Steering Committee has been constituted as the apex body to monitor the progress of various action programmes under the International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) and suggest measures for their viability and effectiveness.
- i. Successful bilateral projects in the private sector have been undertaken under the auspices of IPEC, like soccer ball project in Sialkot.
- j. Pakistan *Bait ul Mal*, a financial institution under the Government of Pakistan, has established 33 rehabilitation centres for child labourers in different cities.
- k. The Directorate of Workers Education has undertaken a programme of training for the inspecting staff of the provincial governments to improve the implementation of the laws relating to child labour.

4.10 *To ensure special protection of children in armed conflict and to build a foundation for a peaceful world by promoting the values of peace, tolerance, understanding and dialogue.*

- i. Through linkages made with Human Rights Education Decade activities and UNESCO Values Education and Culture of Peace Programme, educators including children and NGOs have contributed to promoting the values of peace, tolerance, understanding and dialogue. In all four provincial capitals, a network of NGOs and

educationists have nurtured the innovative skills and creative talents of children. Through this interaction the much-needed environment of tolerance and pluralism has been promoted. Examples of activity are; the Ist World Children's Art Exhibition, Pakistan 2000 in which 23 countries participated and over 900 entries were received; the Children's Parliament; a body of over 3000 children from 60 schools who have not only elected their own representatives but are spokespersons in adult forums on the CRC. The 40 schools network, including one for street children, given leadership by Rawalpindi Grammer School which is a UNESCO Award Winner for the leadership given to Values Education and the Cultrue of Peace Programmes.

- ii. Pakistan supports the Treaty Banning Land Mines as also does it recognize the SSC 2001 priority attention given to the issue of special protection of children in armed conflict.

4.11 *Prevent the degradation of the environment by pursuing the World Summit Goals, by inculcating respect for the natural environment, and by changing wasteful consumption patterns;*

Pakistan has a strong commitment to prevention of environmental degradation. A Ministry at the federal level and government departments on environmental protection at the provincial levels coordinate government policy and actions in this regard. Measures have been taken towards creating awareness campaigns to prevent degradation of environment through television, radio and the print media. Environmental issues have been included in the school curricula. Some private sector schools run environmental awareness weeks on regular basis. However, this area still needs to be developed a great deal to meet the required standards. Low levels of education and wasteful consumption patterns along with industrial and automobile pollution continue to be a cause for concern.

4.12 *To address poverty and debt; mobilize development finance; halt the net transfer of resources from developing to developed countries; establish an equitable trading system; and ensure children are given priority in economic and social development.*

- i. Pakistan currently has major economic and security problems which have been referred to earlier. The situation is compounded by the galloping increase in people living in absolute poverty, the figure is quoted at 33%. It is well known that children and women are the first to be hit. It is, therefore, noteworthy that the government has put together a social renewal package which compliments the economic revival package. It is a pro-poor dispensation found in Pakistan's Poverty Reduction Growth Strategy document. It addresses the specific issue of poverty and ensures that children and women receive priority. It contains the progress achieved, identifies the constraints and indicates future action.
- ii. Some of the initiatives in the area of women and children are:-
 - a. Establishing of a micro credit bank which will give preference to women.
 - b. School feeding nutrition programme for the poorest of the poor girls primary schools.
 - c. Need related vocational training and job placement for unemployed adolescents.
 - d. Food Support Programme for destitute families with the beneficiaries being women.

SECTION-V

E: LESSONS LEARNT/CONSTRAINTS FACED DURING THE DECADE

- 5.1 i) The recurring themes which have surfaced through the monitoring and in-built evaluation mechanisms and re-enforced by the findings of the Mid Term and End of Decade Review as constraints and lessons learnt are:-
 - a. Economic and resource related.
 - b. Regional security environment.
 - c. Weak institutional mechanisms.
 - d. Inadequate monitoring and information system.
 - e. Insufficient mobilization of stakeholders.
 - f. The need to focus on attainment of the current decade goals.

The first two matters are dwelt on in this section whilst the others will be addressed in the Future Actions Section.

- ii) The integration of the NPA into SAP, government's principal social sector programme, was an important initiative in that it immediately gave life to the goals, this in turn found place in the national 8th and 9th Plan documents. It is therefore planned to continue this mechanism but with the provision that an efficient MIS is put in place to extract the disaggregated data on NPA goals.

5.2 Major Challenges

i) Economic

- a. The major constraint faced by Pakistan in realizing the goals agreed upon in the World Summit for Children was lack of financial and material resources. The macro-economic situation in the country deteriorated over the course of the decade, particularly towards its close. The debt burden assumed alarming proportions with both the external and domestic debt reaching 97.5% of the country's GDP. The growth rate touched a low of 1.7% in 1997 only managing to climb back to 3.1% in 1999. The balance of payments registered a negative figure. The budget deficit also remained above 5% of the GDP.
- b. The national currency suffered repeated devaluations, thereby effectively reducing the amount devoted to development projects and goals, including those related to WSC. Furthermore, Pakistan was subjected to repeated unilateral economic sanctions during the course of the decade. Pakistan also experienced a loss of exports on account of unfair trade practices such as anti-dumping and campaigns on labour standards, which targeted Pakistan in the developed markets.
- c. However, the present government has accepted this constraint as a challenge and has put in place an economic revival package which has home grown self-reliance interventions of creating a tax culture, strengthening value added exports, privatization and a boost to the agriculture sector.

ii. Security Situation

- a. The difficult economic situation was compounded by the unstable security situation in the region.
- b. Pakistan also continued to host more than 2 million Afghan refugees. International assistance for their support and upkeep registered a steep decline during the course of the decade with the result that for several years now Pakistan is fulfilling its moral obligations as country of first asylum to these refugees almost on its own.
- c. Apart from the substantial direct financial cost of looking after these refugees, they have imposed additional serious burdens on the country and its society. Their presence has resulted in severe environmental damage. They have also been competing with Pakistanis for scarce employment and income generating opportunities, thereby exacerbating economic difficulties.
- d. The present government is currently engaged in a strenuous peace offensive with India and working for a durable solution of the Afghan refugees problem based on the principle of voluntary repatriation.

SECTION-VI

F: FUTURE ACTIONS

6.1 Introduction

- i. The goals enunciated in the Declaration and WSC Plan of Action are ambitious and the commitment required to implement them will demand further concerted efforts on part of all stake-holders in Pakistan. Fortunately, the necessary knowledge and techniques for reaching most of the goals already exists in the country. However, the financial resources required are modest in relation to the tasks at hand and there is a lack of supportive, effective and efficient information base.
- ii. There is no cause which merits a higher priority than the protection and development of children, on whom depends the survival, stability and future advancement of Pakistan into the next millennium. Full implementation of the WSC Declaration and Plan of Action must therefore be accorded high priority for national action and international cooperation.
- iii. Children and adolescents have been involved in the EDR process. The voice of children of rural and urban less privileged homes conveys the following message which cannot be ignored, this has been taken into account while programming future actions.
 - Almost all the working children want to study if their economic needs are taken care of.
 - Protection/ shelter needs to be ensured for their survival.
 - There is no proper meal for them so there is a great desire for good food.
 - Generally low family incomes have been translated into social disregard.
 - Medicare is either very expensive or in-accessible.
 - There is a grave concern about teachers and teaching standards.
 - Large family size is compounded by only one earning member.
 - Children are quite oblivious of the developmental efforts and lack awareness.

6.2 Policy Implications and Plans:

- i. At the policy level, there is clear need for pronouncement of political will which is coupled with administrative priority whereby the “first call” is for the nation’s children and adolescents. It is expected to convene in the first half of 2001 a substantive national level meeting on the End Decade Report at which Pakistan’s Head of Government and Initiator of WSC will be invited to announce government’s commitment and follow it up with appropriate administrative directives.
- ii. The EDR National Report will be the subject of the above mentioned meeting. Pakistan’s NPA which represents its Plan document, will be examined and reviewed within this context. The update will provide the base off which the next decade NPA will be formulated alongwith the outcome document of the SSC, 2001.
- iii. Prior to the above national meeting a working group will be tasked with examining NPA within the CRC context. This exercise has been identified as a need because from the lessons learnt it has emerged that a better synergy will be attained by fully integrating CRC goals into the NPA.
- iv. The best interest of the child is a guiding principle in the implementation of the CRC, including Article 4. In this connection, the State should ensure that maximum extent of resources are made available for children’s programmes, especially in respect of reviewing budgetary allocations to the social sector, both at federal and provincial levels.

6.3 Future Actions, Institutional Mechanisms for Implementation and Monitoring

- i) The Federal and Provincial Governments are to strengthen their respective Commissions (NCCWD / PCCWDs) entrusted with the task of coordination of NPA / CRC implementation. Though formally instituted they serve as

little more than unwieldy ineffective bodies. A critical review of their structure, composition and resources will be undertaken.

- ii) *Interalia*, it is noted that a number of UN Decade Conferences have imposed similar demands on member States in a number of other areas, including health, education, women and family planning. Being, integrally linked and in view of Pakistan's recently documented Poverty Reduction Strategy, it will be proposed that the Planning Division rationalize the structures and devise a nationwide manageable, workable system which would avoid duplication of effort and coordinate the presently splintered efforts.
- iii) The UN agencies such as UNICEF, ILO, UNDCO, UNAIDS etc., should respond substantively to Government of Pakistan's request for financial and technical assistance and support to the GOP to facilitate implementation of NPA / CRC.
- iv) Exchange of experiences in other countries of the region through Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which would help in understanding and promoting the implementation of CRC.
- v) In any consideration of children and adolescent issues Pakistan believes the role of government is that of a catalyst and facilitator. This is re-enforced by the accepted norm that to be the owners of their destinies people must be the owners and stakeholders. This continues to be a weak element. The present government seeks to actively pursue this approach through interventions whereby prior to the SSC, it is proposed to (a) invite child related NGOs to establish the much needed Child Coalition, (b) pass management responsibility, where possible, of government institutions to NGOs, (c) establish partnerships through a joint government-NGO projects, (d) reach out to special community based interest groups, such as, religious, political, teachers and medics, (e) create a network of media representatives in support of WSC and CRC objectives.
- vi) The existing vacuum in the availability of accurate and reliable data needs redressal. Though a DBMS has been put in place, in effect it is a weak link because of its poor serviceability. It is necessary to review this MIS and in view of the multiplicity of data retrieval systems, a social sector review of monitoring indicators will be recommended to the Planning Division.
- vii) From a programmatic overview of the last decade, the future programme interventions in Pakistan will be as follows:-
 - a. *Governance and democracy*: With the government having reduced the voting age to 18 years (the objective being to induct the future generation, which is also better educated in the democratic process), it will be necessary to institute, through both formal and non-formal education, citizenship programmes which focus on rights and responsibilities as outlined in the CRC.
 - b. *Adolescent and Youth*: In the first decade of the year 2000, Pakistan will have the largest ever age cohort in this age group. It will also have over 33% living below the poverty line. In this situation, the girls are vulnerable due to empirical evidence of wide ranging discrimination. The boys are victims of neglect in respect of poor education, unemployment and lack of fair opportunity which in turn has led to drugs and other forms of abuse. This is an area which needs careful examination and re-dressal with no further loss of time.
 - c. *Disabilities*: The 1998 Census has shown that the four major disabilities are common in Pakistan. A number of children are also afflicted with disabilities. During the eighties and early nineties due to political support a range of institutions were established for the disabled. Attention was also given in medical education to this subject, project support was obtained from diverse sources. Unfortunately, the EDR reveals that there has been a neglect of this sector over the recent past in the public sector. There is limited partnering with civil society initiatives and funds have dwindled. It is proposed in the future to address this situation.
 - d. *Basic Education*: This is an action area which can no longer be neglected. Pakistan's statistics reveal that at the time of EDR, a large number of children are out of school. The present government has already accorded the highest priority to education for all children. This will be an area of future action. The EDR feedback including the child/ adolescent survey responses and participation has made it abundantly clear that whilst

quantity is an issue, the crux of the matter lies in quality education. The Chief Executive of Pakistan has directed that the governments Education Sector Reform should focus on quality issues in primary education which will on an immediate basis address curriculum and text books, teacher training, staff placement, community participation and issues such as drop outs which relate to affordability, acceptability and accessibility.

- e. *Malnutrition*: This is another emergent issue from the EDR. It is also directly linked to early childhood. Pro-active action is proposed in respect of giving infants the best possible start of health growth and development which is greatly affected even before birth by the health of the mother. Breastfeeding and a school meal programme will also find a place in grassroot interventions which will be family, school and community based.
- f. *Social Issues*: A number of emergent issues being linked and related to customs and traditional practices call for social engineering which entails behaviour change. They will need researched information, sustained advocacy and community action. In all cases, they will best be addressed by civil society organizations. Two issues which will be addressed in the short term are street and runaway children and child abuse.
- g. *Child Labour*: Withdrawal of children from hazardous work and their rehabilitation through informal education and mainstreaming them into the regular educational channel is an important element of the child labour elimination programme. Such activities have been limited due to financial constraints.
- h. *Dissemination of the CRC*: This is an important issue. Action proposed include:-
 - a. Inclusion of CRC and UDHR provisions in the school curriculum from primary to school leaving with systematic teacher's training and teacher guides.
 - b. Institutionalizing public/ private/ NGO sector linkages in furtherance of CRC education and dissemination
- i. *Peace and Tolerance*: The Values Education and Culture of Peace Activity will be given depth in order that it reaches the under served, marginalized and less privileged schools and communities.

GOAL.	END-DECADE GOALS	INDICATORS	INDICATOR DEFINITION	1990 BASELINE	1995	LATEST	YEAR
1.	Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of infant and under five mortality by one third or to 50 and 70 per 1000 live births respectively which ever is less.	Infant mortality rate	Probability of dying between birth and exactly one year of age per 1000 live births	106.0	93.0	81.0	1998
		Under 5 mortality rate	Probability of dying between birth and exactly five years of age, per 1000 live births	162.0	136.0	108.0	1998
2.	Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of maternal mortality rate by half.	Maternal mortality rate	Annual number of deaths of women from pregnancy related causes, when pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy per 100,000 live births.	500.0	400.0	340.0	1998
3.	Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of severe and moderate malnutrition among under five children by half.	Stunting prevalence	Proportion of under-five who fall below minus 2 and below minus 3 standard deviations from media height for age of NCHS/ WHO reference population	51.0	23.0	▪	▪
		Under weight prevalence	Proportion of under-five who fall below minus 2 and below minus 3 standard deviations from media weight-for-age of NCHS/ WHO reference population	48.0	38.0	28.0	1999
		Wasting prevalence	Proportion of under five who fall below minus 2 and below minus 3 standard deviations from median weight-for-height of NCHS/ WHO reference population	16.0	11.0	▪	▪
4.	Universal access to safe drinking water	Use of safe drinking water: Overall- Urban- Rural-	Proportion of population who use any of the following types of water supply for drinking: 1) piped water; 2) public tap; 3) borehole/ pump; 4) well (protected/ covered); 5) protected spring; 6) rain water.	66.0 80.0 45.0	76.0 84.0 69.8	83.0 93.0 77.0	1999
5.	Universal access to sanitary means of excreta disposal	Use of sanitary means of excreta disposal: Overall- Urban - Rural-	Proportion of population who use any of the following types of sanitation facilities: 1) toilet connected to sewerage system; 2) any other flush toilet (private or public); 3) improved pit latrine; 4) traditional pit or latrine)	36.0 55.0 10.0	47.0 78.0 22.0	53.0 94.0 37.0	1999
6.	Universal access to basic education and achievement of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school-age children through formal schooling or non-formal education of comparable standard, with emphasis on reducing the current disparities between boys and girls.	Net primary school enrollment ratio: Overall Male Female	Proportion of children of primary school are enrolled in primary school	56.8 74.0 39.3	62.0 80.1 42.8	74.7 86.4 63.0	1999
		Children reaching grade-5	Proportion of children entering first grade of primary school who eventually reach grade 5	48.0	47.0	50.0	1998
7.	Reduction of adult illiteracy rate (the appropriate age group to be determined in each country) by at least half its 1990 level, with emphasis on female literacy.	Adult Literacy Rate Male Female	Proportion of population aged 15 years and old who are able, with understanding to both read and write a short simple statement on their every day life	35.0 47.0 22.0	38.0 50.0 25.0	44.0 58.0 28.9	1998

S.NO.	END-DECADE GOALS	INDICATORS	INDICATOR DEFINITION	1990 BASELINE	1995	LATEST	YEAR
9.	Special attention to the health and nutrition of the female child and to pregnant and lactating women	Under five Mortality Rate Male Female	Probability of dying between birth and exactly five years of age, per 1000 live births	162 140 132	136 142 129	108 NA NA	1998
		HIV/ AIDS prevalence (15-49) (2.47 million) Overall Male Female	Proportion of population aged 15-49 years who are HIV positive- disaggregated by gender and age	HIV/ AIDS 201/30 ▪ ▪	HIV/ AIDS 1106/ 108 ▪	HIV/ AIDS 1501/198 1313/176 188/22	2000
		Iron deficiency Anemia (15-49) <12 gm/ 100ml for non-pregnant <11 gm/ 100 ml for pregnant	Proportion of population aged 15-49 years with hemoglobin levels below 12 g/ 100 ml for non-pregnant women, and below 11 g/ 100 ml for pregnant women	▪ 45	31 41	▪ 40	1999
		Antenatal Care Overall Urban Rural	Proportion of women aged 15-49 attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel.	26.7 58.0 12.6	▪ ▪ ▪	40 ▪ ▪	1999
		Underweight prevalence Overall Male Female	Proportion of under five-who fall below minus 2 and below minus 3 standard deviations from median weight-for-age of NCHS/ WHO reference population.	48.0 41.0 40.0	38.0 38.0 38.0	28.0	1999
10	Access by all couples to information and services to prevent pregnancies that are too early, too closely spaced, too late or too many	Fertility rate for women 15-19	Number of live births to women aged 15-49 per 1000 women aged 15-19	84.0	59.0	61.0	1999
		Total Fertility Rate	Average number of live births per women who has reached the end of her child bearing period	6.2.	5.2	4.9	1998
		Contraceptive Prevalence.	Proportion of women aged 15-49 who are using (or whose partner is using) a contraceptive method (either modern or traditional)	12.0	21.0	23.9	1997
11.	Access by all pregnant women to prenatal, trained attendants during childbirth and referral facilities for high-risk pregnancies and obstetric, emergencies.	Antenatal Care Coverage: Overall Urban Rural	Proportion of women aged 15-49 attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel	26.7 58.0 12.6	▪ ▪ ▪	31.0 60.0 22.0	1999
		Child birth Care: birth attended by skilled health personnel: Overall Urban Rural	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	18.8 42.3 8.2	19.0 40.0 13.0	20.0 45.0 12.0	1999
12.	Reduction of the low birth weight (less than 2.5 kg) rate to less than 10 percent	Birth weight below 2.5 kg	Proportion of live births that weigh below 2,500 grams	25.0	25.0	10.0	1999
13.	Reduction of the iron deficiency anemia in women by one third of the 1990 levels	Iron deficiency Anemia (15-49) <12 gm/100 ml for non-pregnant- <11 gm/ 100ml for pregnant-	Proportion of population aged 15-49 years with haemoglobin levels below 12 grams/ 100 ml blood for non-pregnant women, and below 11 grams/ 100 ml blood for pregnant women	▪ 45	31 41	▪ 40	1999

S.NO.	END-DECADE GOALS	INDICATORS	INDICATOR DEFINITION	1990 BASELINE	1995	LATEST	YEAR
14.	Virtual elimination of iodine deficiency disorders	Proportion of Households with adequate Iodized salt: Overall Urban Rural	Proportion of households consuming adequately Iodized salt.	▪ ▪ ▪	19.0 27.0 11.0	23.6 ▪ ▪	1999
15.	Virtual elimination of Vitamin A deficiency and its consequences, including blindness.	Children receiving Vitamin A supplements	Proportion of children 6-59 months of age who have received a high dose vitamin-A supplement in the last six months	▪	▪	100.0	1999
16.	Empowerment of all women to breastfeed their children exclusively for four to six months and to continue breastfeeding, with supplementary food, well into the second year.	Number of baby-friendly facilities	Number of hospitals and maternity facilities designated as baby friendly according to global BFHI Criteria	▪	25.0	65.0	1999
		Continued breastfeeding rate.	Proportion of children 12-15 months and 20-23 months of age who are breastfeeding	52.0	56.0	▪	▪
		Exclusive breastfeeding rate	Proportion of infants less than 4 months (120 days) of age who are exclusively breastfed.	25.0	16.0	▪	▪
		Timely complementary feeding rate	Proportion of infants 6-9 months (180-299 days) who are receiving breast milk and complementary food	32.0	31.0	67.0	1999
19.	Global eradication of poliomyelitis by the year 2000.	Annual number of polio cases.	Annual number of cases of poliomyelitis.	777	511	507	1998
20.	Elimination of neonatal tetanus by 1995	Annual number of NNT cases.	Annual number of cases of neonatal tetanus	1,067	1,580	1,555	1998
21.	Reduction by 95 percent in measles deaths and reduction by 90 percent of measles cases compared to pre-immunization levels by 1995, as a major step to the global eradication of measles longer run.	Under five measles cases.	Annual number of cases of measles in children under five years of age	1,768	1,726	2,940	1999
22.	Maintenance of a high level of immunization coverage (at least 90 percent of children under one year of age by the year 2000) against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis and against tetanus for women of child-bearing age.	DPT immunization coverage	Proportion of one-year old children immunized against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT)	84.0	77.0	58.0	1999
		Measles immunization Coverage	Proportion of one year old children immunized against measles	71.0	78.0	54.0	1999
		NNT Protection	Proportion of one-year-old children protected against neonatal tetanus through immunization of their mother.	70.0	54.0	50.0	1998
		Polio immunization Coverage.	Proportion of one year old children immunized against poliomyelitis	83.0	55.0	70.0	1999
		Tuberculosis immunization coverage	Proportion of one year old children immunized against tuberculosis	61.1	75.0	55.0	1999

S.NO.	END-DECADE GOALS	INDICATORS	INDICATOR DEFINITION	1990 BASELINE	1995	LATEST	YEAR
23.	Reduction by 50 percent in the deaths due to diarrhoea in children under the age of five years and 25 percent in the diarrhoea incidence rate.	Under five deaths from diarrhoea	Annual number of under five deaths due to diarrhoea	▪	▪	173000.0	1999
		Diarrhoea cases	Average annual number of episodes of diarrhoea per child under five years of age.	26.0	12.0	16.0	1999
		ORT use	Proportion of children 0-59 months of age who had diarrhoea in the last two weeks who were treated with oral rehydration.salts or an appropriate household solution.	47.0	49.0	54.0	1999
24.	Reduction by one third in the deaths due to acute respiratory infections in children under five years.	Care seeking for acute respiratory infections.	Proportion of children 0-59 months of ages who had ARI in the last two weeks and were taken to an appropriate death provider.	▪	▪	27.0	1999.
25.	Elimination of guinea-worm (dracunculiasis) by the year 2000	Dracunculiasis cases.	Annual number of cases dracunculiasis (guinea worm) in the total population.	160	Guinea Worm eradication programme was conceived in 1986 Transmission of disease stopped in 1993. Now Pakistan has been a declared as Guinea- Worm-Disease-Free Country by WHO.		
	Additional indicators for monitoring child rights	Birth registration Overall Urban Rural	Proportion of children 0-59 months of age whose births are reported registered.	▪ ▪ ▪	▪ ▪ ▪	29.5 39.0 20.0	1998
		Child Labour Boys Girls	Children 5-14 years of age who are currently working (paid or unpaid; inside or outside home)	▪ ▪ ▪	▪ ▪ ▪	3.3 million 2.4 million 0.9 million	2000
	Indicators for HIV/ AIDS	Knowledge of preventing HIV/ AIDS	Proportion of women who correctly state the three main ways of avoiding HIV infection	▪	▪	36.0	1999

