

Denmark's National Report on the follow-up to The World Summit for Children

A. Introduction and Background:

The 1990 World Summit for Children and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child have helped to focus the political and public debate in Denmark throughout the 1990's regarding the rights and conditions of children.

The Danish delegation to the World Summit for Children was headed by the Prime Minister. In 1992 Denmark submitted a national report to UNICEF as a follow-up to paragraph 34 of the plan of action from the World Summit for Children. Similarly in 1996 Denmark submitted a status report on the implementation of the plan of action.

Denmark ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991. In 1993 Denmark submitted the first report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child under article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the measures adopted to give affect to the rights recognised in the convention. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern over the fact that certain provisions and principles of the convention, particularly those reflected in articles 3, 12, 13 and 15, had not been adequately reflected in Danish legislation and policy-making. In 1998 Denmark submitted the second report under article 44. The examination of this report is expected to take place in spring 2001.

Denmark attaches great importance to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the co-operation with the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the implementation of the convention. These are as powerful instruments for the promotion and protection of the rights of children and youth. The reporting system on the national implementation of and compliance with the provisions of the convention allow for a critical approach to the measures taken by one's own country as well as by other countries. The committee's recognition of measures taken and concern over insufficient or lack of follow-up to the provisions of the convention are an essential contribution and impetus to the continued work on promoting the rights of the child. Furthermore, the fact that all countries – apart from two – have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child makes it a powerful international instrument. It is a source of inspiration for the relevant public institutions and voluntary organisations working with children and young people, both in Denmark and the rest of the world.

In December 1999 the Ministry of Justice set up a committee with the task of looking at the advantages and disadvantages of incorporating the fundamental international conventions on human rights – including the Convention on the Rights of the Child – into Danish legislation. The committee is expected to issue a report on the question in spring 2001.

Other legal instruments for the protection of the rights of the child ratified by Denmark include the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in relation to Inter-Country Adoptions (ratified in 1997), ILO

Convention no. 138 concerning The Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (ratified in 1997) and ILO Convention no. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (ratified in August 2000).

Furthermore, during the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000 Denmark signed the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

Denmark also follows the UN Standard Rules on Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.

B. Process Established for the End-decade Review

In March 2000 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs established a national working group to be in charge of co-ordination of the Danish preparations for the UN Special Session on Children. In addition to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the group comprised representatives from the Ministries of Education, Health, Culture, and Social Affairs. Furthermore, the National Council for Children, the Danish UNICEF Committee, Save the Children, Denmark, the Danish Youth Council, the Danish Confederation of Trade Unions (LO), the Danish Council of Organisations of Disabled People and the Danish Family Planning Association were represented in the working group. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Ministries of the Interior, Justice, Labour, and Environment and Energy contributed to the national report.

The Ministry of Social Affairs accepted the task of co-ordinating the drafting of Denmark's national report for the special session. Furthermore, the national working group took the initiative of holding a seminar on the Danish preparations for the special session. Apart from members of the working group, a wide range of NGOs active in the fields of children and young people – both at the national and international levels – participated in the seminar. Furthermore, UNICEF's Regional Director for Europe, Stephen Woodhouse, participated and gave a presentation on emerging issues for children in the 21st century and how to tackle them.

One of the goals of the seminar was to ensure involvement of a broad range of NGOs in a discussion of the main themes of the national report to the Special Session. During the seminar there was a general expression of satisfaction with the report, not least in relation to the extensive involvement of the NGOs. The seminar resulted in many constructive comments to the national report, which have, as far as possible, been incorporated.

In spring 2001 the Danish Youth Council in co-operation with Save the Children, Denmark and The Danish UNICEF Committee plan to hold a meeting in which children and young people will have the opportunity to give their opinion on the themes of the Special Session.

C. Action at National and International Levels

The Danish system

In Denmark the responsibility for safeguarding the rights and interests of children and young people is not left with one but several ministries according to their respective areas of competence. This is due to the fact that the conditions of children, young people and families are affected by many different areas of community life, which in turn cut across existing legislation and professional demarcations.

Families with children have always been accorded high priority. Denmark has chosen not to concentrate the interests of children and families in one ministry but instead to let them be covered by a range of different ministries where expertise in the respective areas is firmly anchored. The Ministry of Social Affairs has the main responsibility for day-care facilities for children and support for children with special needs, the Ministry of Education is responsible for the optional kindergarten class, education of school-age children and after-school day-care arrangements. The Ministry of Health looks after health related issues, including preventive healthcare for children and young people and the Ministry of Labour is responsible for maternal and paternal leave and parental leave. It is also responsible for ensuring flexibility in the labour market in order to improve the balance between work and family life. The Ministry of Justice is responsible for the legal status of children and the Ministry of Taxation is responsible for the public child benefit allowance.

The government's Children's Council and a parallel committee of civil servants, the Inter-ministerial Committee on Children, have been set up to ensure the necessary co-ordination between the respective ministries. The Inter-ministerial Committee on Children is a cross sector co-operation body between the 15 ministries working with matters which directly affect children and families. The committee's main task is to ensure continuity and consistence in the area of family and children and to take cross sector initiatives to improve the living and family conditions for children and young people. The chairmanship and secretariat of the committee are based in the Ministry of Social Affairs. Furthermore, the government has established a Young People's Committee whose chairmanship is located in the Ministry of Education.

The National Council for Children established in 1994 (see also chapter D. (a)), uses the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) as an active tool in the analysis of childhood and adolescence and of current legislation and practice. This way the Council has contributed to the incorporation of the convention in both legislation and practice.

To a large extent the Danish regulations in the area of children and young people entail decentralised administration and decentralised responsibility. It is primarily the municipalities which administer regulations in the area, but the county councils also carry out work relating to children and young people. There are in the social legislation rules which state that the municipalities and county councils should generally work together with and grant support to voluntary social organisations.

Danish NGOs are increasingly involved in work with children's issues, partly through project grants and partly as consultation partners in connection with the drawing up of new legislation. Generally NGOs are involved in a large part of the initiatives and work for the rights of children and young people in Denmark as well as in Danish development assistance.

The government has established an inter-ministerial committee on disability. The committee uses the UN Standard Rules on Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities as a basis for its efforts to co-ordinate the government's disability policy in areas, which are not unambiguously covered by a sector responsibility, or which have a cross cutting character.

The Danish Disabilities Council and the Equal Opportunities Centre for Disabled Persons make extensive use of the UN Standard Rules on Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, as a model and structure for their work. This has led to a structural approach towards sector involvement and analysis also as regards children's issues. Similarly, in many municipalities the Standard Rules are used as guidelines for work with disabled children and young people. Though they are only intended as normative and for guidance purposes, the Standard Rules have played an important role for the work with disabled children and young people.

Monitoring and information collection

Information about the conditions of children, young people and families is regularly being collected through studies, data collection, development projects etc. This work is done by the national sector research, development, communication and information centres working with children's issues. An example of this work is the progress reports on different groups of the population, including children and young people, carried out by the National Institute of Social Research.

Other examples include a publication entitled "Figures on Children in Denmark" from 1995 and the accompanying brochure "Statistics on Children in Denmark" from the Inter-ministerial Committee on Children. There are plans to update both of these publications. Furthermore, a child database has been established which contains information dating back to 1980 regarding children's family conditions, siblings, family income and employment conditions – including income level, the attachment of parents to the labour market, working hours, unemployment, receipt of social benefits, education and lastly the consumer patterns and expenditure items of families with young children.

The situation of Danish children

By international standards the standard of living in Denmark is high, and the difference between rich and poor smaller than in many of the countries with which Denmark is traditionally compared.

There are, however, other conditions which affect children's lives – in particular technological development, changed family patterns, education, work, social networks, cultural offers, the use of media and influence over one's own life – which are decisive factors in the lives of children towards which political interest must therefore be directed.

Changing family patterns – caused, among other things, by the participation of women in the labour market and greater financial and personal freedom – have meant a development away from the traditional nuclear family towards a more individual concept of family; single-parent families, joint-custody children, step-parents etc. The consequence has been that care for children, to a large extent, is the responsibility of others outside the immediate family.

Therefore other demands are made of children today than in the past. Children often have a demanding daily life similar to that of their parents. In addition to attending school, they manage to actively pursue leisure and cultural activities, have friends and jobs, play computer games and use the Internet. They are also increasingly confronted by "adult problems" – some through the media, others in real life. These include wars in other parts of the world, the problems with holes in the ozone layer, unemployment and divorce.

The great majority of children in Denmark thrive and develop the independence and life skills necessary for their future participation in community and work life. However, a smaller group of children in Denmark have difficulties because of a disability, social problems, dysfunctional families, school difficulties, bullying etc. It will therefore be a great challenge in the coming years to try and reduce the risk of these children being "left behind". This challenge faces all parts of community life, including in the health as well as social and educational fields, and necessitates collective consideration of the support effort, counselling possibilities and outreach work.

Specific national initiatives:

Day-care facilities

A childcare guarantee introduced by law has been implemented widely by Danish municipalities. The vast majority of children in Denmark are today cared for by children's day-care institutions or childminders – so-called day-care. Therefore, an initiative has been taken in co-operation with the municipalities and educationalists to implement work to develop the quality of day-care facilities. This development work should focus on what day-care offers today, and where and how intervention must take place to ensure that the quality of day-care facilities continues to develop in line with the demands.

Special support for children with special needs

In spring 2000 a range of legislative amendments were made regarding special support for children with special needs. These amendments focused on the principle of the Convention on the Rights of the Child regarding the best interests of the child, early action, continuity and stability in actions taken and support to parents if their child is removed from the home etc.

Health of children and young people

In May 1999 the Danish government launched a public health programme, aimed at improving the health of the Danish population. It included plans to increase life expectancy and quality of life and to

reduce the social inequality in health. Ten ministries are behind the programme. Children, young people and primary and lower secondary school have been selected as particular targets for preventive efforts in Denmark during the next 10 years. The national health programme states that the health and well being of children must be given highest priority – and in particular, efforts directed at children in weak families should be improved. This aim is to be attained through increased efforts;

- to promote children's health and development and prevent sickness and accidents,
- towards the health and lifestyle of pregnant women to ensure the health and development of the foetus, and
- in relation to children at high risk and children with special needs.

Prevention of suicide among young people

There has been an increase in the number of suicides during the last decade, but the figure is now falling. In 1997 the suicide rate among 15-19 year-olds was 9.1 (number of suicides per 100,000 inhabitants). The government has made a plan of action for the prevention of suicide. The plan of action covers proposals for general and specific prevention of suicide and suicide attempts, including specific prevention among young people.

Children and young people with disabilities

It is a general aim that children and young people with disabilities can remain with their families and avoid long-term stays in institutions. Efforts are made to ensure that children with disabilities are included in the normal school environment in pre-school and primary and lower secondary school with the relevant support facilities. Furthermore, a wide range of information centres regarding specific disability areas has been established. Their purpose is to conduct research and teach professionals who work with disabled people.

Children's values

This year, the Ministry of Social Affairs will work to strengthen and develop further debate on values and responsibility in relation to children. The initiative is called "Today's children – values and duties". Various materials have been issued to support the debate, including a values game and special dialogue cards for use by, for example, parents who are interested in debating their own values. The initiative has its own website (www.boerneliv.dk), where material can be ordered and where people can follow and take part in the debate. The Ministry of Social Affairs in co-operation with the University of Copenhagen will collect and evaluate the responses to and results of the initiative.

Young criminals

During the past years there has been increased focus on young people with criminal behaviour. In 1997 a range of changes of the current scheme of interventions were adopted with a view to preventing this kind of behaviour, including the introduction of new social support avenues, increased outreach work and improved information. In addition, in 2000 a range of new initiatives have been taken to increase this effort. These include improved after-care schemes and an extension of outreach of the youth clubs.

The government launched new initiatives on the 27 October 2000 with a view to combating youth crime. One of the reasons for these initiatives was a range of specific cases in which children and young people were involved in serious crime, which put other people at risk, such as street theft and gang rape. The main points in these initiatives are the following:

- The government has decided that 20 secure places in social institutions are to be established as fast as possible. This will bring the number of secure places up to around 75. Furthermore, the government will provide a further 100-120 places in the social system for dysfunctional young people who are becoming increasingly involved in serious crime.
- Finally the government is aiming at tightening sanctions and actions taken by the authorities with regard to serious youth crime. It has therefore set up a fast working group of experts, which is to assess what can be done to tighten sanctions and increase action taken by the authorities. The group is to finish its work before the end of January 2001.

Negative social inheritance

A government committee was set up in January 1999 with the task of creating the necessary basis to consolidate efforts made to break the pattern of negative social inheritance and furthermore to increase opportunities for children and young people from a weak background. One of the most important conclusions of the committee is that social inheritance cannot be used as the main reason when trying to explain why some people do well and others do not so well. Negative family conditions cannot be used to conclude in advance that things will turn out badly later in life for the child or young person in question. Negative social inheritance can only express an increased probability or risk that problems will arise for children or young people who have been exposed to strain during childhood and adolescence.

The government committee concluded that the common aim when considering measures to combat negative social inheritance should be:

- that efforts must be adapted to the individual,
- that focus must be on the individual resources and competences of children and young people,
- and that emphasis must be placed on prevention, early action and coherence and continuity between the support available and in the children's own lives.

Ethnic minorities

The question of integration has been the subject of much political attention in Denmark. Denmark has elaborated a plan of action for integration of people with other ethnic origin than Danish. One of the aims of the plan of action is better integration of children and young people from ethnic minorities. Several ministries have taken steps to ensure that children and young people who are bilingual take greater part in the Danish society. One of the initiatives dates back to August 1996 when access was given to special language stimulating programmes for bilingual children who had not yet begun school.

The Inter-ministerial Committee on Children has the task of analysing the efforts made so far regarding ethnic minority children and young people, with the aim of finding inadequacies and providing specific proposals for action to be taken in the area. For this purpose a seminar will be held in spring 2001. Thereafter the specific proposals will be discussed by the Committee with a view to anchoring them in the respective ministries. Furthermore, DKK 50 million has been earmarked for the development of the youth club area, where one of the target groups is young people from an ethnic minority background who lack organised leisure activities.

The Ministry of Social Affairs has granted its support to the National Institute of Social Research which is to analyse how time is spent in ethnic minority families. Such fundamental information is important for the organising of efforts for the individual families in need of support.

Furthermore, several Danish disability organisations have taken the initiative of investigating whether there is increased incidences of children and young people with a disability among ethnic minority groups. These organisations will work to target special information material about opportunities towards members of ethnic minorities and establish the necessary network within the many language areas.

The housing sector

Even though the Danish urban and housing policies are primarily related to towns and the housing sector in general, the policies must also accord special attention to certain groups – in towns and on the housing market. Some of the most significant examples in this regard are the 12 Urban Regeneration Projects, implemented by the Government's Urban Committee. Many of these special initiatives have young people as their target group with regard to matters such as crime prevention and strengthening of integration between Danes and immigrants. Furthermore, the Urban Regeneration Projects - by establishing so-called "Committees for Young People" – seeks to involve young people in the regeneration process of the urban area and in the decision making process.

Culture and leisure

In 1999 the government presented a report on cultural policy for children to the parliament. The report is based on the objective that all children in Denmark must have the best possible conditions with which to participate in, experience and contribute to the Danish society and its sense of community. In the report the government proposes a National Programme for Children's Culture based on three cultural policy objectives:

- Cultural policy shall contribute to children feeling, as early as possible, that they are part of a community.
- Cultural policy shall contribute to encouraging children to develop and thrive on their own terms.
- Cultural policy shall accept a responsibility for protecting children against, for example, the media development.

In the report the government presents visions of how the cultural policy can help to ensure children's right to develop their full potential. Against this background, a National Programme for Children's Culture has been

set up. The programme runs for a period of four years from 2000 to 2003.

On 1 January 2000 the Cultural Council for Children was set up. This body will put the intentions for children's culture laid out in the government's National Programme for Children's Culture into action in co-operation with the many different players in the cultural life and in the daily life of children. The Cultural Council for Children has drawn up a plan of action focusing on a range of areas of intervention which will seek to improve children's culture and the cultural dimension in the lives of children.

In addition, the Ministry of Culture includes consideration for children wherever relevant to the Ministry's area of work, including in connection with performance contracts with cultural institutions, cultural agreements with county councils and municipalities and in connection with new legislation.

The Public Libraries Act – which was passed in May 2000 – obliges all public libraries to have sections for children. As far as possible, all relevant media must be a part of the library's efforts to communicate information and culture to children. The libraries must therefore make books, periodicals, talking books and other suitable materials available for children, including electronic information resources such as the Internet and multi-media.

A Media Council for Children and Young People was established with the passing of the Film Act in 1997. Its primary task is to assess and approve films for children and young people and to advise children, young people and parents about the suitability for children of films and computer games. The Radio/TV Act includes provisions, which prohibit extreme violence and pornography, that can seriously harm minors, and special provisions regarding advertising. An amendment to the Radio/TV Act was adopted in December 2000 in order to increase, among other things, consideration shown to children. The amendment includes an extension of the public service obligations of the Danish National Radio and Danish National TV2, which are now obliged to explicitly offer programmes and information services of a high quality to children and young people. The legislation also entails a strengthening of the existing grants to attempts to set up media schools, and gives the Minister authority to lay down more detailed provisions regarding advertising directed at children and advertising of products for children.

In 1999 the Minister for Culture launched a development programme – the National Programme for Innovative Ideas in Sports Policy – with the aim of developing the cultural and political dimension of sport and of improving the diversity, quality and freedom of expression in Danish sporting life. The National Programme, which is to supplement the efforts of voluntary work in this area, has been set up for a trial period of three years from 1999 to 2002. Some of the aims of the scheme are to create opportunities to enable people to develop their skills, to promote dialogue and fellowship and support active participation in the development of society. The National Programme will try to involve all groups of society in sports and will among other things give support to young people's democratic involvement in the organisation of sporting activities and

attempts to create places for children where they are able to meet adults from the local society.

Grants to films and videos for the deaf, a TV station and grants for the publication of newspapers on CD-ROM for the mentally disabled are just some of the interventions which try to ensure accessibility to the areas of culture and leisure for children and young people with disabilities. Furthermore, subtitling of programmes on public service channels and general accessibility to national cultural institutions are presently being worked on.

Specific international initiatives

Poverty alleviation is the main objective for Danish development assistance. Through its development assistance Denmark supports among other things economic growth, expansion of social sectors including education and health, and the promotion of democracy and human rights, including the rights of children. As such, a significant part of Danish development assistance aims both directly and indirectly at improving the living conditions for children in some of the poorest countries in the world. The Danish efforts to help children in the poorest countries are long-term and concentrated on education and health and assistance to children in need of special protection.

Approximately half of the total Danish development assistance is channelled as bilateral development assistance to the world's poorest countries, in particular in Sub-Saharan Africa. Part of the bilateral funds is given to programmes and projects implemented by Danish non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The other half of Danish development assistance is channelled to multilateral organisations, including first and foremost the UN organisations.

Through its bilateral development assistance Denmark has both directly and indirectly supported children via sector programme support to health and education sectors in a wide range of programme countries. Furthermore, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs finances a number of projects in developing countries where children are the target group. Many of these projects and programmes are implemented by Danish NGOs. Furthermore, funds for informational activities on development work are given through The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Fund for Educational Development. A large part of these activities is targeted at children and young people.

Under its bilateral development assistance programme Denmark has among other things supported a project in Uganda on inclusive education of children with special educational needs. Denmark is supporting the project with almost DKK 129 million (approximately USD 15 million) from 1991 to 2003. The aim of the project is to integrate children with disabilities into the primary school system, as a part of Uganda's prioritising of basic education for all. The target group has been expanded to include all children in need of special protection such as AIDS-orphans and former child soldiers. Furthermore, Denmark has donated DKK 72 million (approximately USD 9 million) in support of a project in Bangladesh which seeks to strengthen the rights of underprivileged children. The aim of the programme is to improve the

social conditions of children in need of special protection, as e.g. child labourers, street children and child prostitutes.

Through the Social Initiative, which was established in June 1998, Denmark also supports children and youth in parts of Eastern Europe. It was taken in order to increase Danish assistance to relieve social distress in the Eastern European countries of the Baltic Sea region. The initiative runs until mid-2004. Altogether, DKK 105 million (approximately USD 12.4 million) have been earmarked over the six-year-period for the implementation of initiatives towards socially marginalised groups. A minimum DKK 15 million (approximately USD 1.8 million) is earmarked for interventions in support of children at need of special protection. Until October 2000, funding of about 60 projects has been committed amounting to approximately DKK 28.5 million (approximately USD 3.4 million). Many of the projects, which are implemented through NGOs or Danish Municipalities and Counties, are directed towards children. The projects include activities for street children, battered children, sexually abused children, activities for poor and marginalised families with children, including day and family counseling centres, as well as activities for children with mental or physical disabilities.

In its multilateral development assistance Denmark directly supports the improvement of lives of children through its contribution to the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF. In 2000 UNICEF received DKK 190 million from Denmark as a general contribution (approximately USD 23.75 million) and DKK 42.5 million (USD 5.3 million) to its emergency assistance programme. In 1999 Denmark was the fourth largest donor to the organisation's general budget and the eighth largest donor to its total budget. Denmark is actively participating in the elaboration of policies and strategies for UNICEF's work through the UNICEF Executive Board.

Denmark gives financial support to the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) specific activities to eliminate the worst forms of child labour. Since 1997 efforts to combat child labour have been a special priority area in Denmark's co-operation with the organisation. On an annual basis Denmark grants DKK 4.5 million (approximately USD 560,000) directly to ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). The Danish funds are used for programmes in Cambodia, Egypt, Sri Lanka and Nepal. Via ILO, support is also given to the implementation of the ILO conventions on indigenous people, which includes children and their rights. DKK 21 million (approximately USD 2.6 million) have been granted to this area for the years 2000-2003.

In 1990 Denmark was a co-sponsor of the World Conference on Education for All in Jomtien, Thailand, which launched the International Decade for Education 1990-2000. Since the conference Denmark has supported, both multilaterally and bilaterally, the implementation of the plan of action on "Education for All" – through among other things its co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO. Furthermore, Denmark was actively involved in the preparations for and the holding of the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal in April 2000, which marked the conclusion of the International Decade for Education. Denmark plans to take an active part in the follow-up activities of the conference.

Denmark also indirectly supports the improvement of the conditions of children and young people through its assistance to and dialogue with a range of other UN organisations. These include the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN High Commission for Refugee Affairs (UNHCR) and the UN's Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). In several of these organisations Denmark works actively in the executive bodies of the organisations.

In October 2000 the Danish Parliament adopted a new strategy for Danish development assistance, Partnership 2000. Children and young people are now a focus area in Danish development policy.

The importance of children and young people as the key resource on which a country can draw to create long term development is emphasised as a central point of departure for Denmark's development assistance, both bilaterally and multilaterally. In the future Denmark will therefore assist the developing countries in building capacity to live up to the obligations in the Convention on the Rights of the Child; promote the health and welfare of children and young people; prioritise assistance for education of children and young people, including ensuring that girls and boys have equal opportunities for education; support the development of coherent and qualitatively improved educational systems that will give children and young people skills that correspond to the need of their country and can thus lead to productive employment and active engagement in the development process. Furthermore, Denmark will help to promote awareness of the wishes and requirements of children and young people themselves and of the needs of children and young people in conflict situations, as refugees and internally displaced persons. Denmark will also direct contribute to support for children and young people in particular difficult circumstances, including disabled children and children orphaned as a result of the HIV/AIDS epidemic or in consequence of armed conflict. Lastly, Denmark will prioritise support for efforts to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS among children and young people.

D. Specific Actions for Child Survival, Protection and Development – progress achieved, constraints faced and lessons learnt with respect to the following the Specific Actions for Child Survival, Protection and Development taken from the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s:

- (a) 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;**

Implementation

The National Council for Children was established in 1994. The task of the council is to ensure the rights of children and inform and advise about children's conditions in society. Since 1998 the National Council for Children has been established by law and has had the task of assessing the conditions under which children live in Denmark, in the light of the provisions and intentions of the Convention on the Rights of

the Child. The council must also involve the views of children in its work. The cost of the National Council for Children is covered by the national budget.

The National Council for Children uses the Convention on the Rights of the Child as an active tool in analyses of children's conditions and of relevant legislation and practice. Through it the council has contributed to the incorporation of the convention into Danish legislation and practice. In May 2000 the National Council for Children presented an independent report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, as a supplement to Denmark's second official report under article 44 of the convention.

In general, Danish legislation complies with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Denmark has made a reservation regarding article 40, paragraph 2, letter b, point v of the convention, which concerns the child's rights to have a decision on infringement of penal law reviewed by a higher impartial authority or judicial body according to law. In a society like the Danish where children's daily life from an early age takes place outside the home with the involvement of many professionals, implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child must take place at all levels of society. Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is therefore left with both the central government, the county councils, the municipalities and also to a large degree civil society, including the Danish NGOs. In connection with the adoption of new legislation or of amendments to existing legislation reference is often made to the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The convention is quoted more and more in the public and professional debate.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child can and will presumably become an even more important guideline for ensuring the interests and rights of Danish children in the coming years. It is a continuous development covering such matters as systematic implementation of the provisions of the conventions in regulations, guidelines and administrative practice together with a need for a general change in attitude and increased information on children's rights.

Children's participation in decision making

The right of children to participate in decision making and influence their daily life is a question, which is debated with increasing frequency. The Inter-ministerial Committee on Children has undertaken studies concluding that even a very small child is able to make qualified decisions in relation to his/her age and general level of development.

Decisions regarding children's participation in decision making form part of the Name Act, the Adoption Act, the Hospital Patients' Rights Act, the Primary and Lower Secondary Education Act and the Social Services Act. Furthermore, participation in decision making and common responsibility are an integrated part of the objectives for children's day-care facilities and the municipal primary and lower secondary school.

There are no general resolutions which require that children and young people are involved in the decision making processes of the municipalities – for example regarding district plans, traffic planning,

institution and school expansion or establishment of cultural or leisure activities. In recent years, however, various municipalities have launched different initiatives with the aim of involving children and young people in local democratic processes.

The development of children's participation in decision-making, both on a personal as well as a societal level, is a continuous process. In this process rights and practice must be developed in such a way as to promote the participation of children in decision-making on the one hand yet retain the responsibility of both parents and adults in society for the welfare of children on the other.

Considerable attention will be given to this area in the coming years. It includes considerations of the appropriateness of making more use of a maturity criterion in relation to the child's right to express its opinion. Attention will also be focused on when the views of the child on important questions should be taken into account, and how much importance should be attached to them.

Another important area of intervention will be the development of practical methods and attitude changes among practitioners, politicians and officials towards children's participation in the decision-making process.

(b) to combat childhood diseases through low-cost remedies and by strengthening primary health care and basic health services; to prioritise the prevention and treatment of AIDS; to provide universal access to safe drinking water and sanitary excreta disposal; and to control water-borne diseases;

Preventive health schemes for children and young people

The Preventive Health Scheme Act for Children and Young People, which came into force on the 1 January 1996, replaced the Doctor's Examination of Children Act, the School Doctor Scheme Act and the Health Visitor Arrangements Act. Law offers children under the school age of seven free, preventive health examinations by the practising doctor. Three of these visits are during the child's first year. Thereafter, school-age children are offered two health examinations by the municipal health service (kindergarten class and 9th grade).

An inter-disciplinary group must ensure that the development, health and well-being of the individual child is promoted and the group must also ensure that there is sufficient contact to medical, social, educational, psychological and other specialist knowledge. This ensures collective inter-disciplinary action towards children and young people with special needs.

Furthermore, the municipalities have an advisory function in relation to children's health and well-being in schools, day-care institutions and in the municipal childminding schemes.

Dental health

All Danish children and young people under the age of 18 are entitled to free preventive municipal dental health care. The aim of the systematic

dental health care being offered to children and young people is to, as far as possible, prevent the emergence of dental disease. As dental disease cannot be entirely avoided a further aim is to carry out preservative treatment and prevent resulting conditions arising from dental disease.

The municipalities must offer dental health care to children and young people either at public clinics or private dental clinics, recognised by the municipalities. Dental healthcare is free in both places.

Immunisations

All Danish children are given the chance to be vaccinated for free. Vaccination is voluntary and is carried out by practising doctors. The health authorities recommend vaccinations against eight diseases including diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella and meningitis and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib). The health authorities continuously monitor the vaccination programme and register the number of diseases vaccinated against, the number of vaccinations given by doctors and the number and type of side effects. The Danish vaccination programme has functioned well and the diseases that children are protected against have almost disappeared. However, there is still occurrence of whooping cough and more rarely of measles. There has not been a case of polio in Denmark for over 20 years and within the next few years the oral polio vaccination is expected to be stopped. Thereafter Denmark will be able to be certified by WHO as a polio free area.

Sex education

Sex education forms part of the syllabus in the municipal primary and lower secondary school under the compulsory subject "health and sex education and family studies". A compulsory subject is not a school subject in its own right but is incorporated into the general teaching of primary and lower secondary school where it is thought to be appropriate and natural. A core objective and main areas of knowledge and skills are specified for compulsory subjects, in the same way as they are for other subjects in municipal primary and lower secondary schools.

All of the pupils at the municipal primary and lower secondary school, i.e. 88% of pupils in basic general education at primary and lower secondary level, attend classes in sex education. The subject is compulsory throughout basic general education, in principle from the first grade. Teaching in sex education is also thought to take place in the majority of private independent schools at primary and lower secondary level. The actual extent of sex education at private independent schools is, however, not registered.

With regard to general and vocational upper secondary education programmes, all pupils attending municipal high school or attending the Higher Preparatory Course (HF) attend classes in sex education during the first year as a part of the subject biology. The other education types for young people do not include compulsory classes in sex education.

(c) 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.

Malnutrition is not a problem among Danish children. However, a small group of Danish children are over-weight and this affects slightly more girls than boys. In 1999 5.5% of boys between 5 and 7 years of age were regarded as overweight, as were 6.8% of girls. The corresponding figures for girls and boys aged 14 to 16 were 9.8% and 6.9% respectively.

To improve the food and meals of children and to promote healthy eating habits an annual pool of DKK 50 million (USD 5.9 million) for the period 2001-2003 has been earmarked to provide schools and day-care institutions with nutritionally balanced and organic food. The subsidy scheme supports meal schemes for children with healthy and reasonably priced food. Furthermore, the initiative "Children, Food and Meals" run by the National Board of Health is trying out - through its co-operation across sector and professional boundaries - different methods to improve the development by children and young people of healthy food and eating habits.

(d) 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;

In general, girls and boys in Denmark have equal status in all the conditions named above. One difference can, however, be found: statistics show that more girls than boys make use of the present educational opportunities. Thus, the average length of education for girls has been higher than that of boys for the past decade. In 1998 girls were expected to spend 16.4 years in the education system compared to 15 years for boys. This difference has various explanations. For example, more girls than boys take a high school education. Boys often wait before starting a commercial or technical education programme following basic general education. Today more women (54%) than men complete a higher education (graduate and post-graduate).

(e) 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;

During the last decade Denmark has made a range of amendments to legislation regarding children and young people with a view to ensuring the necessary support to parents and other child-carers to care for and nurture children. A large number of day-care places have been made available for children throughout this period as the vast majority of women in Denmark are active on the labour market. These places fulfil both care and social and educational objectives and are continuously being developed as regards their form and organisation.

During the past years so many day-care places have been created that only a small number of children are on waiting lists. The challenge in the coming years will focus primarily on improving of the quality of these places – in relation to the physical environment, the educational approach and the organisation and form of the places in general.

It is the aim that children and young people with disabilities remain with their families. To ensure this, support is given to the family in the form of a day-care place for the child or young person, relief schemes for parents and compensation of lost income for parents who look after their child at home, either full-time or part-time. In addition to this, assistance is offered for adaptation of the home and for transportation. Children and young people with a disabilities are integrated partly into regular day-care schemes, and partly into special day-care schemes. Many parents choose to receive compensation for lost income during certain periods.

With regard to children in need of special support, thorough and radical amendments have been made to the relevant legislation. In 2000 a range of legislative amendments was made in order to ensure early and ongoing interventions in support of children with special needs. Regulations have been introduced which oblige information to be disclosed regarding pregnant addicts, and oblige information to be disclosed between municipalities in the cases of families with special needs and demands regarding help from inter-disciplinary groups etc.

Regulations have been introduced to give support to parents whose children have been removed from their custody because of lack of care. This support is given during the period when the child is removed from the family. Work is being continuously carried out to improve the quality of these arrangements. This includes both family care outside the home, places of residence and institutional stays.

The guarantee that there are sufficient places available for this purpose and that these places are of a satisfactory quality is a challenge, which will continue to be on the agenda in years to come. This is also true of cases in which children and young people are removed from their homes because of criminal behaviour.

Finally, over the past years a range of legislative amendments has been made to ensure that children whose parents separate retain contact to both parents and that they are offered support.

Physical punishment of children

In summer 1997 the Danish Parliament decided to finally abolish parents' rights to use corporal punishment on their children. In 1998-1999, at the request of the Ministry of Justice, the National Council for Children working with the NGO Children's Welfare and the Secretariat for the Prevention of Violence carried out a nation-wide campaign with the aim of informing parents of children aged 0 to 10 years about the new legislation. The campaign material consisted primarily of the folder "When I have children, I will never hit them". 850,000 copies of this folder were sent out through schools and day-care institutions.

In 2000 the National Council for Children followed up this campaign by issuing translated copies to parents whose first language is Turkish,

English, Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian and Arabic respectively. The Council is currently preparing a copy of the folder in Urdu.

The Danish population is increasingly turning away from corporal punishment as a means of bringing up children. In 1980 only 26% of Danes were against corporal punishment, and a study from 1984 showed the same result. In a poll from January 1997 a clear majority of the population (57%) were against corporal punishment of children. Recently published research among mothers of three year-old children shows that the legislation still has not entirely succeeded, even though progress has been made: 12% of children receive a spanking occasionally and 22% receive a slap over the fingers from time to time.

Studies show that the great majority of parents questioned now regard the so-called "soft values" such as love and care as the most important elements when bringing up children, whereas expectations of honesty were previously valued highest. This indicates that we might see a development towards even less corporal punishment of children in the future.

Sexual abuse of children

In Denmark the extent of sexual abuse of children is not known, nor is the type of abuse. In October 2000 an inter-ministerial working group under the government's Children's Council submitted a report to the government, containing among other things proposals for an increased effort to combat sexual abuse of children. Against this background measures will be increased so as to better prevent the abuse and intervene quickly and professionally once abuse has taken place. These measures include:

- Advisory material will be sent to municipalities and action will be taken in relation to educational institutions with contact to a large number of children.
- Research will be started with a view to discovering the extent of abuse in Denmark and with practical examples of how co-operation between parents and employees in institutions can be best developed to combat abuse.
- Funds will be granted for a centre to help abused children and to set up an information collection system.
- Support will be given to activities aimed at combating abuse over the Internet.

Studies regarding video evidence of children in cases of sexual abuse have been set up and a closer assessment will be made of the possibilities for greater access to the Danish Central Crime Register to register and pass on information regarding convicted paedophiles.

The Danish government is also active at the international level in co-operation to combat sexual abuse, including child pornography, paedophilic sex tourism, sexual abuse of children via the internet, within the UN, the Nordic co-operation, the EU, the Council of Europe and the Council of the Baltic Sea States. In September 2000 Denmark signed, as mentioned previously, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child regarding sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Funds to combat abuse of children, including sexual

abuse, are also being made available for project in the Baltic region under The Social Initiative mentioned above.

Child Pornography

The provisions of the penal code regarding child pornography have been amended with effect from 1 July 2000. They now cover not only commercial sale or distribution of child pornography, but also distribution "to a broader circle", including distribution within clubs through the Internet. The sentence for distribution of child pornography has been increased to up to two years imprisonment. The provisions regarding possession of child pornography have also been amended. Now it is also a punishable offence to acquaint oneself against remuneration with more obscene forms of child pornography, even if there is no actual possession involved. Remuneration covers any form of payment or services, including exchange for other services. The maximum sentence has also been increased and a sentence of up to 6 months in jail can be given in aggravating circumstances. At the international level, including in the UN and the European Council, a range of initiatives have been – and will be – taken, which might make further changes in the Danish penal code regarding child pornography necessary.

Children in prison (including children in solitary confinement)

In Denmark juvenile crime is both a criminal and a socio-political matter. The number of young people in prison in Denmark is very limited. A system whereby young people were placed in special juvenile sections proved to be inappropriate, among other things because the young people felt too isolated. These special sections were therefore closed down and it was decided to set other guidelines for the accommodation and treatment of juveniles in the prison system. In all cases where young people under 18 years have been sentenced to unsuspended imprisonment it must be assessed if there is a basis for placing the young person in question in a so-called treatment institution or similar measures. 15-17 year-olds serving a sentence in an open prison are placed according to geographical location so that they are able to retain contact with their family and can attend educational institutions, social institutions etc. located in the vicinity as part of the rehabilitation procedure. In open prisons following a specific assessment the young person is placed in a section where contact with the other inmates is in accordance with the needs of the young person, and where the aim of protecting the young person against bad influences is best met. The state prison must constantly monitor 15 to 17 year-olds, discuss the situation of the young person at least fortnightly and assess whether there is a basis for making changes with regard to the placement etc. A circular of 5 January 1999 from the Department of Prisons and Probation states that the institution is obliged to arrange individual treatment programmes for young people placed in the various institutions.

In spring 1999 the Danish Supreme Court made a ruling which determined that the Convention on the Rights of the Child does not exclude the possibility of solitary confinement for young people under the age of 18. There are, however, few young people who are remanded in custody in Denmark – and the vast majority of them are placed in so-called "custody substitute" in secure, social institutions. Only few young people are held in remand prison and solitary confinement is only proposed in extreme circumstances. In summer 2000 a legislative

amendment was made stating that under no circumstances must solitary confinement take place for more than eight consecutive weeks, if the arrestee is under 18 years of age. The Standing Committee on Criminal Procedure will present an assessment of the new regulations regarding solitary confinement when the regulations have been in force for 5 years. A range of NGOs have questioned the practice of placing children in solitary confinement.

(f) 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;

Lifetime learning and education for everyone is the basic ideal for the entire Danish education system. The aim of basic general education is to give Danish children a solid background enabling them to get an education and create a good life for themselves and their children in a democratic society. At the same time school should also provide the necessary background for secure and developing relations for children and young people.

In order to progress easily through the education system, it is important that there is coherence between the different educational programmes. An increasing number of young people in the primary and lower secondary school choose to take part in presentation courses and transitional courses. Transitional courses are thought to be an especially good way of giving the students a realistic impression of the course and school to which they are planning to apply. It can encourage more to choose to follow a general or vocational upper secondary education programme, thereby reducing the number of changes of school and the drop out rate.

General and vocational upper secondary education

General and vocational upper secondary education is a common term for educational courses, which are placed immediately after primary and lower secondary school. They cover a wide range of course types from high school to commercial and technical education programmes leading to a qualification to individually tailored educational courses.

There are an increasing number of young people who continue in education following primary and lower secondary school. The high school education attracts a growing number of young people whereas the commercial and technical education programmes are experiencing falling application numbers. However, for young people who want a practical training placement the situation is not ideal, despite the fact that more young people have had the chance to be admitted to a school based practical training placement. In spring 2000 the government and some parts of the labour market entered into an agreement to increase the number of practical training placements.

Latest figures show that virtually all young people – 98% each year - start general or vocational upper secondary education. However, 17% of young people do not qualify from and complete their studies. This is an improvement compared to 1993 where 25% of young people did not complete general and vocational upper secondary education.

The government is very aware of the drop-out problem, and has in recent years taken various initiatives regarding the group of young people who do not start, or who drop out of, the existing general and vocational upper secondary education programmes. Many courses have been radically changed and new courses have been added. More flexibly planned general and vocational upper secondary education programmes such as the individually tailored youth education programme, basic vocational training and production school courses ensure that there are also courses available for those young people who do not have the resources or who are not sufficiently motivated to follow and qualify from a general or vocational upper secondary education programme. It is still too early to draw conclusions from the results of the latest initiatives. However, it looks as if the possibility of offering flexible educational programmes will meet the special educational needs of important groups of young people.

A number of disabled young people do not continue in a traditional general and vocational upper secondary education programme following primary and lower secondary education. However, a new regulation concerning educational and vocational guidance at primary and lower secondary level ensures that disabled students prepare an education plan like all other students with a view to continuing in education or employment. Since Denmark follows the UN Standard Rules on Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, the principle of sector responsibility applies to the Danish education system. This means that young people with disabilities must be allowed to follow a course of education on an equal footing with other young people of a corresponding educational background.

Higher Education

An increasing number of students build upon their general and vocational upper secondary education programmes and undertake a short, medium-length or long-term course of higher education. There has been a 32% total increase over the past decade in the number of completed courses of higher education.

However, there is still some way to go before the objective of having 50% of all young people complete a course of higher education is achieved. Figures from 1998 show that 40% of young people completed a higher education course. The decision to simplify admission to short courses of higher education is thought to have been well received by students judging by the number of applicants in 2000. In the same way the establishment of a centre of higher education is expected to increase the number of applicants to medium length higher education courses.

Reading

National and international studies of adult literacy have shown that between 10 and 15% of the adult population have such poor reading skills that they find it difficult to cope with the reading demands of daily life. Therefore, since 1980 the county councils have offered free adult literacy classes to those with severe reading difficulties or dyslexia. Since 1996 this offer has been extended to cover free adult literacy courses for all adults. In 2001 these adult literacy courses will be replaced by

Preparatory Adult Education (FVU), which is an intensive and more targeted programme.

(g) 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;

Alcohol abuse among young people

Studies show that Danish children and young people have the highest level of alcohol consumption in Europe, and those Danish children begin to drink at a very early age. The reduction of children and young people's high level of alcohol consumption is a common responsibility and demands joint action from all persons in contact with children and young people. In the coming years measures must be directed at setting alcohol policies in schools, continuation schools, youth clubs and general and vocational upper secondary education programmes etc. It will also be important to start initiatives designed to change attitudes and limiting alcohol advertising, which has a direct influence on the consumption patterns of children and young people.

In 1998 shops were prohibited to sell alcohol to children under 15 years of age. In addition, in 2000 and until 2004, Denmark has earmarked DKK 40 million for social work with the treatment and prevention of alcohol abuse including family treatment and measures aimed at children and young people with alcohol problems.

Children, young people and drugs

Over the past few years there has been a marked development in the drug culture of young people. New figures on the experimentation of young people with drugs show a clear tendency towards an increase in experimentation of 15-16 year-olds with illegal drugs – excluding heroin. The largest increase is with ecstasy where there has been a six-fold increase from 0.5 % in 1995 to 3.1 % in 1999. There has also been a marked increase in the number of young people who have tried cannabis in 1999 compared with figures from 1995.

In August 2000 the government presented a proposal for a development project concerning ecstasy prevention in two so-called test county councils. The aim of the development project is to develop methods to prevent more young people from trying ecstasy or similar drugs and then becoming trapped in drug abuse. The project is targeted at young people, their parents, other adults and the relevant sections of the health services. The development project is being carried out in two county councils and the results and information gathered there will regularly be communicated to the rest of the country.

Smoking

Tobacco smoking is the single preventable factor which has the greatest negative impact on the health of the Danish population. A study of the smoking habits of 15-year-olds from 1998 shows an increase in the number of young smokers compared with a corresponding study from 1995. Action must be taken to prevent children and young people from starting to smoke. Stopping children and young people from starting to

smoke must be achieved partly through smoking regulations and smoking policies in places where children and young people spend their daily life, and partly through attitude changes focusing on the effects of smoking. Passive smoking is also a real health risk, especially for small children for whom passive smoking doubles the child's risk of respiratory disease such as asthmatic bronchitis. The government has recently put forward a legislative proposal to increase smoking restrictions in places where children and young people spend their daily life.

(h) to ensure special protection of children in armed conflict and to build a foundation for a peaceful world by promoting values of peace, tolerance, understanding and dialogue;

These values have been incorporated as an essential part of the objectives for both school and day-care facilities in Denmark, and work is continually being carried out on the development and implementation of these objectives.

(i) to 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;

Chemicals in products for children

Children are exposed to environmentally unfriendly substances partly through the environment and partly via direct exposure to chemicals in products which surround us in our everyday life. Through their behaviour children are exposed to chemicals in the environment to a greater degree than adults are. In particular, small children like to investigate and explore the world around them with their fingers and put, for example, soil in their mouths. Children are directly exposed to chemicals through certain consumer products such as toys and children's cosmetics and other cosmetic products because they put the toys in their mouths and the cosmetics on their skin. Furthermore, children are in many cases more biologically sensitive to the harmful effects of chemical substances. In relation to their weight children eat a larger amount of food, drink more water and breathe more air than adults do.

An inter-ministerial working group on the protection of children and pregnant women against dangerous substances is co-ordinating inter-disciplinary activities in the traditional chemical field. In recent years the Danish Environmental Protection Agency has focused heavily on informing the population about children and chemicals. For example, in 1999 the agency published a brochure on "Chemicals in Children's Daily Lives" which was well received by parents and employees in day-care institutions. Furthermore, press releases are regularly sent out to inform of dangerous chemicals found in products for children. In 1999 a ban was issued on phthalic acid in toys for small children and in certain items for small children.

Denmark demands special labelling and child proof packaging of pesticides. Toxic pesticides must not be used in places where children spend their daily lives – such as in gardens and institutions.

Drinking water in Denmark

In Denmark nearly all drinking water is obtained from ground water. Unfiltered water for water supply can be obtained from the ground water in the greater part of the country. Before the drinking water is sent to the consumers it is oxidised and filtered. Water can be drunk directly from the tap with no danger to health.

The harmful effects of chemical substances have been thoroughly reported in a Danish environment project, which is just being completed. The report considers children and pregnant women as particular risk groups and presents a range of recommendations on how protection of these groups can be increased.

(j) To address poverty and debt; mobilise 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.

Annually Denmark spends around 1% of its gross domestic income (1999 total DKK 11.362 billion) on official development assistance and is as such one of the world's leading donor countries. The main priority for Danish development assistance is poverty alleviation and Danish development efforts take place in the world's poorest countries. For many years, and especially since the World Summit for Social Development, Denmark has spoken in favour of debt cancellation for poor, highly indebted countries. Denmark is also a forerunner regarding contributions to debt reduction. Denmark has waived national loans and export credits worth almost DKK 4.8 billion and has since 1990 contributed around DKK 1.2 billion to the reduction of the debt of developing countries to multilateral development banks. Furthermore, Denmark has actively participated in work on the World Bank's and the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) debt relief initiative HIPC (highly indebted poor countries). The main aim of Danish participation in the HIPC initiative is to reduce the debt of severely indebted poor countries to a level where repayments will not prevent the countries from being able to bring the poorest people out of poverty and ensure improvement in living conditions for the majority of the population. Denmark actively participates in the work with the so-called HIPC fund under the World Bank and is one of the largest contributors to the fund in per capita terms.

In accordance with the recommendations from the World Summit for Social Development, Danish development aid to social sectors is given high priority both in bilateral and multilateral aid. In its bilateral development assistance priority is given to sector programme support, including to the health and education sectors in some of the poorest countries especially in sub-Saharan Africa. As mentioned, the new strategy for Danish development assistance, Partnership 2000, introduced support to children and young people as a new focus area in Danish development assistance. In accordance with the strategy Denmark will work to ensure that the trend towards globalisation benefits the weakest developing countries and the poor segments of the population in these countries. Furthermore, Denmark will help to promote access of the developing countries to international markets.

E. Lessons learnt and future action

The general development in society affects the conditions of children. Over the past ten years this has been the case with the technological development, the changed family pattern, and the favourable economic development in Denmark.

The technological development represents important opportunities for children, for example in relation to the development of skills and knowledge, communication and information exchange with others – children, young people and adults. On the other hand, technological development can also create problems for children – as it creates access to illegal material on the Internet and leads to an increase in the amount of dangerous substances in the environment.

The following areas involves challenges in the field of children and young people, which will have to be kept in mind:

- **Sexual abuse of children**, including the question of the participation of children in criminal investigations, information to front-line personnel and treatment and post-treatment of offenders. As a part of its international work against the sexual abuse of children, Denmark will take steps to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.
- **Child pornography on the Internet** is an area where Danish legislation has already been tightened. International co-operation with the UN and the European Council will also be given a high priority.
- **Parents' failure to provide care to children** will be a focus area, on the basis of existing legislation including in relation to the child's right to welfare as an individual and as part of a family.
- **Children's physical environment**. A lot of work is being carried out in this field these years, including through legislative initiatives regarding the educational environment of children and young people and a quality project in the field of day-care facilities which will among other things study children's environment.
- **Children's influence on their own conditions and their involvement in democratic processes** will undoubtedly be a subject for debate in the coming years, not least brought about by Danish NGOs in this field. The question will be how and under which circumstances children's views on important questions should be obtained and how much importance should be attached to them.
- **Children's right to be children**. Children have – partly via the Internet and the media – received increased access to 'adult subjects' outside their range of experience, for example pornography. It will therefore be a challenge in the coming years to relate specifically to what lies within and outside the child's range of experience and how children should be protected against unsuitable information.
- **Children and young people with disabilities**. All involved sectors face great challenges with regard to developing flexible and qualified offers and opportunities for disabled children and young people and ensuring that sufficient knowledge in relation to the needs of these

children and young people is maintained and developed. Parents with a physical or mental disability ought to be given compensating support, so that they are able to enter actively into the role as parent and thereby create as normal a childhood for their child as possible.

- **Coherence in the lives of children.** The participation of women in the labour market makes demands on the organisation of the labour market and family life, so that children are given both time and room. These challenges – for both families and children – have been and will continue to be an important focus area in Denmark.
- **Smoking.** Measures to prevent children and young people from smoking and measures to ensure that children and young people can spend their daily lives in smoke-free surroundings should be increased in the coming years. Furthermore, special efforts should be made to help pregnant women and the families of small children stop smoking.
- **Preventing chemicals in products for children** is an area which will be given priority both on a national and international level in the coming years. Among other things, it should to be considered how the question of children and chemicals can be given a higher priority in the international co-operation on chemicals, which is already underway.
- **Children of ethnic minorities in Denmark.** The number of people with an ethnic background other than Danish has increased in recent years which makes large demands on all sectors of society. Measures that have already been taken will form the basis for consideration of the extent to which action must be increased in the coming years.
- **Children in prison, including solitary confinement of children.** Measures towards children who have broken the penal code has the government's attention. This is also true of the question of children in solitary confinement. Danish NGOs are active in this debate and have questioned the current practice.
- **Unaccompanied underage asylum seekers.** The difficult situation of these children demands special action. Initiatives for improving the particular situation of this group of children are being considered, including a change in the procedures for treatment of cases concerning unaccompanied underage asylum seekers.
- **Children of parents in prison.** Children of imprisoned parents are especially at risk, and in Denmark attention has been drawn to the problems surrounding the support of these children. A thorough analysis of the problem is currently being considered which may lead to new initiatives.
- **Children's abuse of intoxicating substances.** Children's abuse of alcohol and other substances is increasing and therefore a range of new initiatives will be launched to work on attitudes and responsibility of young people, parents and professionals.
- **Children's diet and exercise.** In the coming years, special effort will be made to improve the diet and exercise habits of children and young people.
- **Distribution of resources** – children with weak resources. It will be a great challenge over the coming years to try to reduce the risk that the group for children who have difficulties because of social problems, dysfunctional families, school difficulties etc. are unable to

function to their full potential. This applies to all parts of society, including health, social and educational areas.

- **Increasing awareness and quality development of efforts taken to improve the lives of children.** The work done to evaluate measures taken to improve the lives of children will be a challenge in the coming years. Awareness of this field should be increased, including the evaluation of the use of resources and the effects of the measures taken. In the light of the experience of other countries, the extent to which there is a need for further monitoring of the use and effects of resources – perhaps also in an EU context - must be considered.
- **Children in armed conflicts.** Denmark will take steps to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts, which was signed in September 2000.

F. Appendix

Goal 1: Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of infant and under-five mortality rate by one-third or to 50 and 70 per 1000 live birth respectively, whichever is less

- *Under-five mortality rate. Probability of dying between birth and exactly five years of age, per 1000 live births:*

Under-five mortality rate in 1996 was 6.85.

- *Infant mortality rate. Probability of dying between birth and exactly one year of age, per 1000 live births:*

Infant mortality rate, per 1000 live births:

	1996	1997	1998	1999
Boys	6.29	5.47	4.73	4.99
Girls	4.78	5.05	4.61	3.85

Source: Statistics Denmark

- *Child mortality rate. Deaths due to injuries in children from 5 to 19:*

6-8 years		9-12 years		13-15 years		6-15 years			Per cent of all deaths
Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total	Per cent
9	4	7	7	15	7	31	8	49	46.7

Source: National Institute of Public Health, DIKE 1997

- *Suicide rate in adolescents from 15 to 19:*

	Boys	Girls	Total
Suicide rate per. 100,000	12.5	5.5	9.1

Source: Centre for Suicidological Research 1997

Goal 2: Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of maternal mortality rate by half

- *Maternal mortality ratio. 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:*

7.4 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1996.

Source: Statistics Denmark.

Goal 3: Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of severe and moderate malnutrition among under-five children by half

- *Prevalence of obesity. Proportion of children considered obese according to the national definition:*

Degree of overweight	Sex	Age	
		5-7 years	14-16 years
Overweight*	Boys	5.5%	6.9%
	Girls	6.8%	9.8%
Obese**	Boys	1.0%	2.1%
	Girls	1.8%	3.5%

*Overweight: BMI>18 for 5-7 year-olds
BMI>25 for 14-16 year-olds

**Obese: BMI>19 for 5-7 year-olds
BMI>28 for 14-16 year-olds

Source: National Institute of Public Health, DIKE 1999

Goal 4: Universal access to safe drinking water

- *Use of improved drinking water sources. Proportion of population who use any of the following types of water supply for drinking: (1) piped water; (2) public standpipe/tap; (3) borehole/pump; (4) protected well; (5) protected spring; (6) rainwater:*

No statistics available, but would be 100 percent.

Goal 5: Universal access to sanitary means of excreta disposal

- *Use of improved sanitary means of excreta disposal. Proportion of population who use any of the following types of sanitation facilities: (1) toilet connected to sewage system; (2) toilet connected to septic system; (3) pour-flush latrine; (4) improved pit latrine; (5) traditional pit latrine:*

No statistics available, but would be 100 percent.

Goal 6: Universal access to basic education and achievement of primary education by at least 80 percent of primary school-age children through formal schooling or non-formal education of comparable learning standard, with emphasis on reducing the current disparities between boys and girls

- *Access to quality education. Pupil/teacher ratio in primary school:*

In 1998 there were 10.5 students per teacher in the municipal primary and lower secondary school. In the private independent schools the figure was slightly higher, at 11.4.

The average class size states the number of pupils per class who attend so-called regular classes. In 1998 there were on average 18.9 children in a class in the municipal primary and lower secondary schools. In private independent schools at the same level the average class size was 17.0

- *Access to quality education. Student/teacher ratio in secondary school:*

In the municipal high schools the student-teacher ratio is lower than in the municipal primary and lower secondary schools and the private independent schools. In 1988 the figure was 9.8 students per teacher. In 1998 the figure was 8.7. This is the equivalent of 1.1 less students per full-time teacher today at the municipal high schools. The average class size in municipal high schools in 1998 was 23.8. This figure has fallen by 1.0 since 1994.

On commercial and technical courses of study the number of students per teacher varies according to the school and type of course. However, in both types of school the tendency is declining. On commercial courses of study the figure for number of students per teacher has fallen from 12.5 in 1989 to 11 in 1997. On technical courses the figure has fallen from 7.8 in 1989 to 7.3 in 1997.

- *Access to quality learning. Indicator for learning achievement:*

Level of education for children and young people

A child beginning in the first grade of primary school in 1998 is expected to stay in the education system for 15.7 years. Some will spend less time in education and others much more. The total expected time spent in education has risen by 1.0 year. It should be noted that the one year voluntary kindergarten class, which 98% of all children attend, and adult education courses are not included in this figure.

Difference in the length of education of girls and boys

In 1998 girls were expected to spend 16.4 years in the education system and boys 15 years. The average length of education during the last decade has been higher for girls than boys. This difference between boys and girls can be explained in many ways. For example, more girls than boys take a high school education. Boys often wait before starting on a commercial or technical programme of study following primary and lower secondary school. Today more women than men complete a higher education course (54%). To this must be added that certain female dominated educational courses have been lengthened.

- *Enrolment rates*

Proportion of young people qualifying from a general and vocational upper secondary education programme

More and more young people take an education. Latest figures show that 77% of a year group can now be expected to qualify from a commercial education programme. For the year group of 1998 only 81% can be expected to qualify from a general or vocational upper secondary education course. If the total number of general and vocational upper secondary education programmes is included, the number of young people who complete such a programme is estimated to be 83%.

Higher Education

The majority of students from primary and lower secondary school (94%) continue to a general or vocational upper secondary education programme (upper secondary level) following the municipal primary and lower secondary school. 49% continue to higher education (tertiary level).

40% of a year group complete a course of higher education. Of these 40%, 6.5% will complete a short course of higher education, 21% a medium-length course of higher education and 12.5% will complete a long course of higher education.

Goal 7: Reduction of adult illiteracy rate to at least half its 1990 level, with emphasis on female literacy

- *Functional literacy level. Proportion of population aged 15 years and older who are able to understand basic instructions required to function adequately in their society (social security, leases etc.).*

Reading skills

The literacy level of adult Danes has recently been documented by Danish participation in the Second International Adult Literacy Survey, covering the age group 16-65 years. The survey, which was carried out in 1998, examined reading comprehension, arithmetic and document literacy skills. The survey was based on functional skills, i.e. the skills needed to be able to transfer information read into usable solutions and answers: to be able to read a timetable, understand an instruction manual or read a newspaper article successfully.

In general, Danes did well compared with the other participating countries in the survey. Their reading comprehension skills are just under average, their arithmetic skills are in the top third and the results of the document literacy are among the highest.

Skills of young people aged 16-25 who have left the municipal primary and lower secondary school are high. Generally younger people manage better than older people and people with a long education manage better than those with a short education. Those who have the most problems are people with a short education, older people and people who are no longer on the labour market.

It is, however, not only these groups who have poor literacy skills. In many cases people with a general or vocational upper secondary education or higher education qualification have inadequate skills. Every fourth person with a general or vocational upper secondary education and every tenth person with a higher education have arithmetic skills on the two lowest levels of the scale used. These levels are defined as inadequate in relation to the demands that are made on the majority of people regarding the use and comprehension of written material.

Illiteracy

All children in Denmark are obliged to attend school. Special pedagogical assistance is given to those children and young people who for various reasons have difficulties learning to read. The Ministry of Education estimates that 1-2% of the population is illiterate despite massive pedagogical assistance. An actual registration of the extent of illiteracy has not been undertaken. Neither are illiterates with an immigrant background registered.

- *Functional literacy level. Proportion of children aged 10-18 with weekly access to computers:*

Number of students per computer

In 1998/99 there were approximately 11 students per modern computer at municipal primary and lower secondary schools. This is an increase in the number of computers since 1996/97, when there were 17 students per modern computer. Private independent schools and continuation schools are not included in this figure.

The number of computers has also risen in the municipal high schools. There were 13 students per computer in 1996/7 compared with around 7 students in 1998/99. Figures for vocational schools (business and technical colleges) are not available for 1996/7 but in 1998/99 there were only 2-3 students per modern computer

Internet access

All municipal high schools and vocational schools have access to the Internet via Sctornet, which is the educational network of the Ministry of Education. At the end of 1999, 81% of all primary and lower secondary schools had access to Sctornet. The primary and lower secondary schools, which were not then connected to Sctornet, have in the current year received a new offer of connection. Furthermore, the offer of connection has also been given to continuation schools and youth education schools, which do not share premises with a municipal primary and lower secondary school. There are also schools, which have connected to the Internet independently, i.e. without the Ministry of Education's offer of connection to Sctornet.

General access to computers and the Internet

The proportion of Danish households with a PC/home computer is, according to Statistics Denmark 1999, 53%. A section of these households cover school-age children, who are thereby able to obtain further computer-related skills in addition to those gained at school.

In 2000, just under half (45%) of all Danish families, corresponding to a million families, had Internet access at home.

Goal 8: Provide improved protection of children in especially difficult circumstances and tackle the root causes leading to such situations

- *Total child disability rate. Proportion of children aged less than 15 years with some reported physical or mental disability:*

In 1984 parents of children aged 2-17 were asked: Has your child had a prolonged illness or disability which has changed your daily life for at least 3 months over the last year? 6.7% answered, yes.

Source: National Institute of Public Health, Børns sundhed i DK (*Children's Health in Denmark*), page 28, 1998

- *Child poverty rate. Proportion of children living in households with income below 50 percent of the national median:*

Families with and without children distributed in percentages according to the size of their disposable income per person. Income in relation to median income for all families, 1992.

	Under 50%	50-99%	100- 149%	Over 149%	
All families	7	40	42	11	100
All families with 1 child	3	36	53	9	101
All families with 2 or more children	4	67	27	2	100
All families with children in total	4	52	40	5	101

Source: Kampmann & Nordheim Nielsen Tal om børn (Figures on Children), 1995, page 150. Figures calculated with the help of the family type law model of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Economics of scale have been taken into account in the calculation of disposable income, so that the first adult in the family counts for 1, the second adult 0.7 and children 0.5 units. This method of calculation previously went under the name OECD weights.

On the basis of a random sample of the population the Ministry of Economic Affairs has calculated the proportion of families with and without children who have a disposable income of 50% or less of the median income.

Proportion of families with and without children who have a disposable income of below 50% of the median income.

Percent	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Single without children	11	9	10	10	10
Couple without children	2	1	1	1	1
Single with 1 child	5	5	6	6	5
Single with more than 1 child	3	5	5	4	4
Couple with 1 child	1	1	1	1	1
Couple with more than 1 child	2	2	2	2	2

Source: Calculations undertaken by the Ministry of Economic Affairs based on the law model. Economics of scale in families have also been taken into account. A different method has been used than in the calculation above. The weighted income per equivalent person is calculated by dividing the household's total income by the square root of the number of persons in the household.

- *Child poverty rate. Prevalence of worklessness among households with children (worklessness defined as a household in which no adult is employed or self-employed):*

A survey from 1 January 1993 regarding the attachment of parents to the labour market stressed that the units used here are not the *number of families* affected by so-called "worklessness" but the *number of children*, in families where a single parent or both parents in nuclear families are either unemployed or do not form part of the workforce.

Proportion of children living at home in families where the single parent or both parents are either unemployed or do not form part of the workforce, calculated 1 January 1993

	Number of children affected by 'worklessness'		Rest		All	
Age	Number	Pct	Number	Pct.	Number	Pct.
0-2 yrs	25,270	13%	170,308	87%	195,578	100%
3-6 yrs	28,469	12%	205,358	88%	233,827	100%
7-10 yrs	22,743	11%	190,140	89%	212,883	100%
11-14 yrs	21,979	9%	211,497	91%	233,476	100%
15-17 yrs	17,132	9%	177,538	91%	194,670	100%
Total	115,593	11%	954,841	89%	1,070,434	100%

Source: Kampmann, Per & Fritz von Nordheim Nielsen *Tal om børn (Figures on Children)*, Copenhagen, Ministry of Social Affairs 1995. The following conditions apply to the figures:

1. The figures only consider children living at home.
2. Children living in registered partnerships do not form part of the figures. This only applied to 51 children.
3. Step-parents of children of different marriages are considered as one of the parents in the tables.
4. The family status of the children was measured as of 1 January 1993.
5. The labour market status of the parents was measured for a week at the end of November 1992.
6. Parents who have a job but are temporarily absent because of, for example, maternity leave, are considered to be in work.

A second survey regarding the attachment of parents and families with children to the labour market, taken from Statistics Denmark 10 Year Review 2000, compares the years 1980 and 1998.

Proportion of the year that parents were jobless in percent

	Children		Families with children		Families without children	
	1980	1998	1980	1998	1980	1998
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not jobless	71	73	72	74	72	78
Under 20 percent	18	12	17	11	14	9
20-40 percent	6	7	6	7	6	5
40-60 percent	3	4	3	4	4	4
60-80 percent	1	2	1	2	2	2
80 percent or more	1	2	1	2	2	2

Source: Statistics Denmark, 10 Year Review 2000, Copenhagen 2000. NB. An average has been worked out for adults in families and thereafter the family is placed at intervals of 20%, according to how large a proportion of the year they have been jobless.

- *Sexual exploitation. Number of children under 18 estimated to be involved in child pornography or prostitution:*

The police in Copenhagen estimate that the number of children involved in child prostitution and child pornography is extremely small. The police in Copenhagen rarely encounter prostitutes who are under the age of 18 working on the street or in massage parlours. In the past five years the

police in Copenhagen know of only one case where a minor was involved in pornography. There are no real reasons to believe that child prostitution and pornography are a more wide spread phenomenon in the police districts of the rest of Denmark.

- *Child abuse. Estimated level of child abuse, according to national definition:*

To illustrate this point the results from a new survey undertaken by Karin Helweg-Larsen of the Danish National Institute of Public Health have been used. In the survey '*Sexual abuse of children in Denmark*' different methods are used to try and assess the extent of sexual abuse of children. One of the methods is to look at the statistics of reported abuse, i.e. the number of sexual offences committed against children within and outside the family. Reported incidents of indecent exposure do not form part of the survey, as the age of the assaulted is not recorded in the statistics.

Reported incidents of sexual abuse of children in families and crimes against sexual morality in Denmark. Number per 1000 children, 0-14 years. (extract from original table).

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Whole country	0.42	0.41	0.43	0.42	0.52

Source: Helweg-Larsen, Karin, Seksuelle overgreb mod børn i Danmark (Sexual Abuse of Children in Denmark), Copenhagen, National Institute of Public Health, 2000.

The reported statistics do not take into account "shadow figures", i.e. the number of unreported cases of sexual abuse of children. The correlation between the cases reported and the shadow figures vary considerably according to society's awareness of sexual abuse of children. Therefore, it is very difficult to ascertain the actual number of abuse cases from the reported statistics alone.

An examination of 550 cases reported to the police in 1998 (including indecent exposure cases) showed that half of the cases concerned indecent exposure, 1/10 concerned abuse in the family and 4/10 concerned abuse outside the family. Within these three categories a sentence was given in 16.6%, 50% and 45% respectively of the cases. The low rate of sentencing in cases of indecent exposure is to some extent due to the lack of identified culprits.

The report makes a cautious estimate that at least 10 out of 1000 children will be exposed to sexual abuse in the course of their childhood (0-14 years). The report does not use in this case a defined and fixed definition of sexual abuse.

- *Children in institutions. Proportion of children in alternative care, excluding foster care:*

To illustrate this point a survey from Statistics Denmark of children in care outside the home is used. Children in family care outside the home are included in the table because family care in Denmark is an institutionalised form of full-time care in line with other forms of full-time care. Family care for children in Denmark tries to solve the same

problems as other forms of full-time care for children. (The English term 'foster care' is therefore in this respect interpreted as children who are cared for in families without the mediation of the social authorities according to chapter 8 of the Social Services Act).

Number of 0-17 year-olds in care outside own home, annually as of 31 December

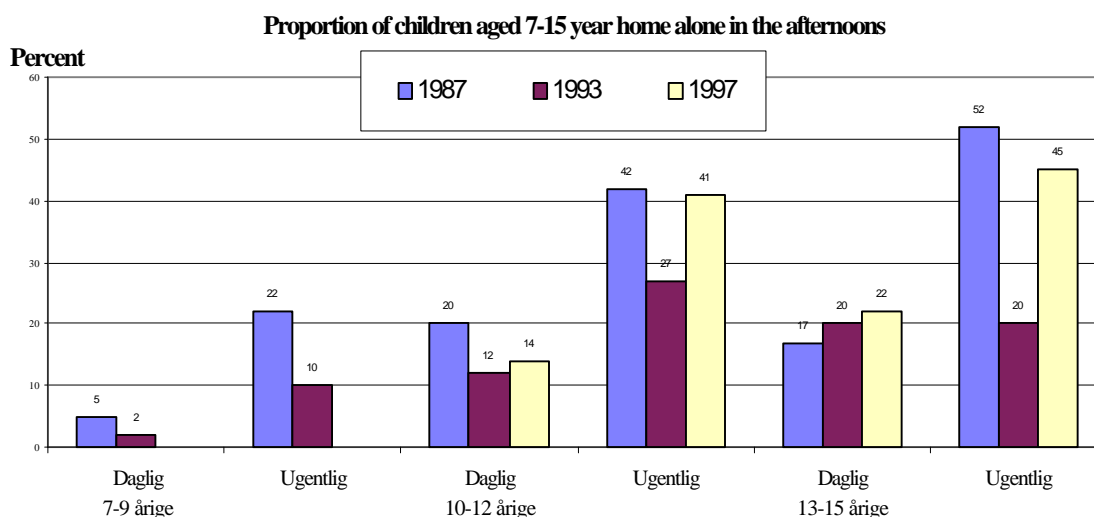
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total	12270	11583	11586	10323	10225	10354	10234	10410	10972	11532
Family care	5489	5003	5161	4638	4694	4722	4652	4773	5066	5448
Socio-educational Residence	565	585	607	754	802	859	927	1021	1174	1415
Ship project etc.	59	58	56	46	42	43	42	53	44	45
Boarding school or similar	2550	2595	2420	1677	1373	1393	1351	1347	1393	1278
Hospital or unknown	10	7	3	1	3	5	4	4	6	2
Residential institution	3139	2893	2912	2756	2835	2865	2868	2819	2898	2951
Own room	458	442	427	451	476	467	390	393	391	393
Proportion of all 0-17 year-olds	1.12%	1.06%	1.07%	0.95%	0.94%	0.95%	0.93%	0.93%	0.98%	1.02%

Source: Statistics Denmark, Bistand til børn og unge (Assistance to children and young people) various years.

- *Children without adult supervision. Proportion of children under 15 with working parents, left unsupervised when out of school:*

It is difficult to pinpoint how many children aged 0-15 years are without adult supervision when they are not at school. The Danish National Institute of Social Research has, however, carried out surveys in 1987, 1993 and 1997 among 7(10) to 15 year-olds and asked this age group how often they are alone at home in the afternoons. There are no available figures for children younger than 7 years.

Daily Weekly
 7-9 year-olds 10-12 year-olds 13-15 year-olds



Source: The Danish National Institute of Social Research survey studies; 1987 figures: "Skolebørns dagligdag" (The Daily of Life of Schoolchildren), p.160 (SFI report 89:7); 1993 figures: "Skolebørns fritid" (Schoolchildren's Freetime), p. 52 (SFI report 95:2); 1998 figures: Special analysis of data material from SFI's report "Ansvar og værdier – en undersøgelse i børnefamilie" (Responsibility and values – a study of families with children), (SFI report 99:22). – The questions in this survey were only asked to children aged 10-15, which is why there are no figures for children aged 7-9. Note: Children, who are alone at home weekly, are alone at home at least one afternoon a week. Children, who are alone at home daily, are alone at home at least 4 afternoons a week.

Goal 9: Special attention to health and nutrition of the female child and to pregnant and lactating women

- *Under-five mortality rate – female/male:*

Under-five mortality rate female/male per 1000 live births in 1996

Male	Female
7.61	6.03

Source: Statistics Denmark

- *Prevalence of obesity – female/male. Proportion of children considered obese according to the national definition:*

Degree of overweight	Sex	Age	
		5-7 years	14-16 years
Overweight*	Boys	5.5%	6.9%
	Girls	6.8%	9.8%
Obese**	Boys	1.0%	2.1%
	Girls	1.8%	3.5%

*Overweight:

BMI>18 for 5-7 year-olds

BMI>25 for 14-16 year-olds

**Obese:

BMI>19 for 5-7 year-olds

BMI>28 for 14-16 year-olds

Source: National Institute of Public Health, DIKE 1999

- *Antenatal care. Proportion of women aged 15-49 attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel:*

Approximately 100 percent.

- *HIV prevalence:*

Proportional incidence of HIV among 15-49 year-olds in Denmark:

Men	Women	Adults
0.26%	0.07%	(0.17%)

- *Anaemia. Proportion of women 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:*

No statistics available.

- *Teenage pregnancy. Birth rate to 15-19 year-olds:*

Live births per 1000 women aged 15-19

1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
8.3	8.0	8.4	7.7	7.7

Source: Statistics Denmark 10 Year Review (2000) page 29.

Goal 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 to 19. Number of live births per 1000 women aged 15-19:*

Live births per 1000 women aged 15-19

1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
8.3	8.0	8.4	7.7	7.7

Source: Statistics Denmark 10 Year Review (2000) page 29.

- *Sex education. Percentage of children 11-19 with access to sex education through schools:*

Sex education is taught at municipal primary and lower secondary schools as part of the compulsory subject "Health and sex education and family studies". A compulsory subject is not a school subject in its own right but is incorporated into the general teaching of primary and lower secondary school where it is thought to be appropriate and natural. A core objective and main areas of knowledge and skill are specified for compulsory subjects, the same way as they are for other subjects in municipal primary and lower secondary schools.

All of the pupils at the municipal primary and lower secondary school, i.e. 88% of pupils in basic general education at primary and lower secondary

level, attend classes in sex education through the compulsory subject "Health and sex education and family studies". The subject is compulsory throughout basic general education, in principle from the first class. It is thought that teaching in sex education takes place in the majority of private independent schools at primary and lower secondary level. However, the actual extent of sex education teaching at private independent schools is not registered.

With regard to general and vocational upper secondary education programmes, all pupils attending municipal high schools or attending the Higher Preparatory Course (HF) attend classes in sex education during the first year of the course as a part of the subject biology. The other education types for young people do not include compulsory classes in sexual education.

- *Incidence of sexually transmitted diseases. Percentage of 15-19 year-olds having had at least one incident of a sexually transmitted disease:*

Seven percent of all 15-19 year-old Danes have had at least one incident of a sexually transmitted disease. Chlamydia, herpes and genital warts are normal infections among young people, while HIV gonorrhoea and syphilis are extremely rare diseases.

Goal 11: Access by all pregnant women to pre-natal care, trained attendants during childbirth and referral facilities for high-risk pregnancies and obstetric emergencies

- *Antenatal care. Proportion of women aged 15-49 attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel:*

Approximately 100 percent.

- *Childbirth care. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel:*

Approximately 100 percent.

- *Obstetric care. Number of facilities providing comprehensive essential obstetric care per 500,000 population:*

Denmark has five comprehensive essential obstetric care facilities per 500,000 population.

Source: National Board of Health

Goal 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:*

The number of new-borns with a birth weight of under 2.5kg was in 1995 3363. This amounts to 4.9% of the total number of births in 1995

Source: National Institute of Public Health Børns sundhed i DK – (*Children's Health in Denmark*), page 28, 1998.

Goal 13: Reduction of iron deficiency anaemia in women by one third of the 1990 levels

- *Anaemia. Proportion of women 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:*

No statistics available.

Goal 14: Virtual elimination of iodine deficiency disorders

- *Iodised salt consumption. Proportion of households consuming adequately iodised salt:*

No statistics available.

- *Low urinary iodine. Proportion of population with urinary iodine levels below 10 micrograms/100 ml urine:*

No statistics available.

Goal 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 of vitamin A supplement in the last 6 months:*

No statistics available.

- *Mothers receiving vitamin A supplements. Proportion of mothers who received a high dose vitamin supplement before infant was 8 weeks old:*

No statistics available.

- *Low vitamin A. Proportion of children 6-59 months of age with serum retinol below 20 micrograms/100 ml:*

No statistics available.

Goal 16: Empowerment of all women to breast-feed their children exclusively for four to six months and to continue breast-feeding, with complementary food, well into the second year.

- *Exclusive breastfeeding rate. Proportion of infants less than 4 months of age who are exclusively breastfed:*

In 1999 a Danish committee on nursing/breastfeeding launched a survey on exclusive breastfeeding when the child is 4 months, 6 months and 12

months respectively. As of yet, the committee has only obtained figures for the proportion of children exclusively breastfed at 4 months. In 2000 the figure was 59%.

Proportion of children partly breastfed at 3 months of age was 50% in 1985 and 70 % in 1992.

Source: The partly breastfed figures are obtained from the WHO database The exclusively breastfed figures from year 2000 are obtained from the Danish Committee on Nursing.

- *Timely complementary feeding rate. Proportion of infants 6-9 months of age who are receiving breastmilk and complementary food:*

Proportion of children partly breastfed at 6 months of age was 25% in 1985 and 48 percent in 1992.

- *Continued breastfeeding rate. Proportion of children 12-15 months and 20-23 months of age who are breastfeeding:*

No statistics available.

- *Number of baby-friendly facilities. Number of hospitals and maternity facilities which are designed as baby-friendly according to BFHI criteria:*

No statistics available.

- *Maternity and paternity leave. Conditions provided in terms of length of leave, terms and level of payment for working women and men:*

The following forms of leave are available for women and men:

- Normally 4 weeks pregnancy leave for the mother before the birth;
- 14 weeks maternity leave following the birth or following the child's return to the home, of which the first two weeks are compulsory;
- 1-2 weeks paternity leave following the birth or the child's return to the home, or as agreed with employer within the first 14 weeks after the birth. Paternity leave must be held consecutively;
- Parental leave for either the mother or the father for up to 10 weeks starting 14 weeks after the birth.
- Paternity leave in the 25th and 26th weeks following the birth.

The forms of leave mentioned are covered by a so called municipal maternity pay scheme. Furthermore, it has been agreed that employees in the public sector receive full pay during pregnancy, maternity and paternity leave. In some private agreements limits are fixed as to the maximum pay available.

Goal 17: Growth promotion and its regular monitoring to be institutionalised in all countries by the end of the 1990s

- *Monitoring of child health. Level and frequency of medical exams routinely provided to primary school children:*

During the primary school age, children are engaged in a health educational dialogue, and the health visitor teaches children preventive measures in school. Also during the primary school age, children's eyesight should be examined on a yearly basis. In the first two grades height and weight are measured, in kindergarten and 9th grade tests of colour blindness and hearing are usually carried out. Furthermore, it is recommended that the children be given a complete physical examination in the first and last grade.

Goal 18: Dissemination of knowledge and supporting services to increase food production to ensure household food security

No indicators.

Goal 19: Global eradication of poliomyelitis by the year 2000

- *Polio cases. Annual number of cases of polio:*

No reported cases since 1976.

Source: The National Board of Health

Goal 20: Elimination of neonatal tetanus by 1995

- *Neonatal tetanus cases. Annual number of neonatal tetanus:*

During 1980 to 1997 38 cases of neonatal tetanus were reported. This is an annual average of 2.2 cases.

Source: Epinyt uge 19, 1998, published by Danish Serum Institut.

Goal 21: Reduction by 95 percent in measles death and reduction by 90 percent of measles cases compared to pre-immunisation levels by 1995, as a major step to the global eradication of measles in the longer run

- *Under-five deaths from measles. Annual number of under-five deaths from measles:*

No cases in 1997.

- *Measles cases. Annual number of cases of measles in children under five years of age:*

No statistics available.

Goal 22: Maintenance of a high level of immunisation 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 immunisation coverage. Proportion of one year-old children immunised against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT):*

In Denmark, the immunisation package used is called DTaP-IPV, which include immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis and inactivated polio combined vaccine. Immunisation takes place at 3 months, 5 months and one year of age. Coverage in 1999 was 96, 99 and 99 percent respectively.

Source: Danish Serum Institute.

- *Measles immunisation coverage. Proportion of one year old children immunised against measles:*

Immunisation takes place at 15 months and 12 years of age. Official coverage rate for immunisations against measles in 1998 was 88%.

Source: Association of County Councils in Denmark, Negotiation Committee of Public Health Security

- *Polio immunisation coverage. Proportion of one year old children immunised against poliomyelitis:*

Polio immunisation is covered by the DTaP-IPV vaccine.

- *Tuberculosis immunisation coverage. Proportion of one year old children protected against neonatal tetanus through immunisation of their mother:*
- No immunisation given.
- *Children protected against neonatal tetanus. Proportion of one year old children protected against neonatal tetanus through immunisation of their mother:*

No statistics available.

Source: Danish Serum Institute.

Goal 23: Reduction by 50 percent in deaths due to diarrhoea in children under the age of five years and 25 percent reduction in the diarrhoea incidence rate

- *Under-five deaths from diarrhoea. Annual number of under-five deaths due to diarrhoea:*

One case reported in 1997.

Source: The National Board of Health

- *Diarrhoea cases. Annual average of episodes of diarrhoea per child under five years of age.*

A survey carried out by National Institute of Public Health in 1994 showed that during a period of 14 days, 4 percent of all children aged 1 to 5 years had diarrhoea or other gastrointestinal diseases. During 1995, 8 per 1.000 children aged 1 to 2 years, and 2 per 1.000 children aged 3

to 5 years were hospitalised because of diarrhoea, according to data from the Danish National Patient Register.

Source: Health and morbidity survey 1994, DIKE.

- *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 (ORT).*

No statistics available.

- *Home management of diarrhoea. Proportion of children 0-59 months of age who had diarrhoea in the last two weeks and received increased fluids and continued feeding during the episode.*

No statistics available.

Goal 24: Reduction by one third in the deaths due to acute respiratory infections in children under five years

- *Under-five deaths from acute respiratory infections. Annual number of under-five deaths due to acute respiratory infections (ARI):*

One case was reported in 1997.

Source: The National Board of Health

- *Care seeking for acute respiratory infections. Proportion of children 0-59 months of age who had ARI in the last two weeks and were taken to an appropriate health provider:*

In 1995, 6.8 percent of all children under 1 year, 4.3 percent of all children aged 1 to 2 years and 2.2 percent of all children aged 3 to 5 years were hospitalised because of respiratory diseases. During the last 14 days, 4.9 percent of children aged 1 to 2 years and 2.4 percent of children aged 3 to 5 years have had a minor respiratory disease.

Source: Health and morbidity survey 1994, DIKE.

- *Respiratory infections. Proportion of children by age group suffering from respiratory allergies and asthma:*

Occurrence of allergic- /hyper-sensitivity disease for 1994 in percent					
	0-2	3-5	6-8	9-12	13-15
	years	years	years	years	years
Hay fever	1.2	4.7	6.9	6.9	9.8
Asthmatic bronchitis	7.5	5.8	2.4	1.3	2.6
Asthma	0.7	1.9	4.0	3.5	2.6
Allergic rash	7.7	5.6	6.2	7.7	8.4
Other allergy	2.8	5.1	5.2	4.6	4.2

Source: National Institute of Public Health

Goal 25: Elimination of guinea-worm (dracunculiasis) by the year 2000

- *Dracunculiasis cases. Annual number of cases of dracunculiasis (guinea-worm) in the total population:*

No cases.

Goal 26: Expansion of early childhood development activities, including appropriate low-cost family and community-based interventions

- *Pre-school development: Proportion of children aged 36-59 months who are attending some form of organised early childhood education programme:*

Childcare

Number of 0-9 year-olds enrolled in day-care facilities and the percentage of children covered by day-care facilities and after-school clubs in April 1999, distributed into the age groups: under 3 years, 3-5 years and 6-9 years. The percentage of children under the age of 3 covered by day-care is calculated in relation to the number of children between ½ and 2 years.

Number of 0-9 year-olds enrolled in day-care facilities, April 1999

	Child-minder	Nursery	Kinder-garten	Youth clubs	Age integrated institution	After-school clubs	Special day-care institutions	Clubs ¹	Total
0-2 years	69,961	17,826	1,679	0	21,137	0	137	0	110,740
3-5 years ²	12,506	2,170	107,536	393	66,269	2,781	645	229	192,529
6-9 years	60	1	17,110	31,664	29,865	130,674	364	5,477	215,215
0-9 years	82,527	19,997	126,325	32,057	117,271	133,455	1,146	5,706	518,484

Note: 1. Free time and youth clubs. 2. Children under 6 enrolled in after-school clubs or other clubs are included in the number of enrolled children in the 3-5 age group. Source: Social Statistics

Percentage of ½-9 year-olds covered by day-care facilities, April 1999

	Child-minder	Nursery	Kinder-garten	Youth club	Age integrated	After-school clubs	Special daycare institutions	Clubs ¹	Total
½-2 years	41%	10%	1%	0%	12%	0%	0%	0%	64%
3-5 years ²	6%	1%	51%	0%	31%	1%	0%	0%	91%
6-9 years	0%	0%	6%	12%	11%	49%	0%	2%	81%
½-9 years	13%	3%	19%	5%	18%	21%	0%	1%	80%

Note: Freetime and youth clubs. 2. Children under 6 years enrolled in after-school clubs or other clubs are included in the percentage of children in the 3-5 year age group.

The percentage of children aged between ½ year and 2 years covered by day-care facilities is 64%, 91% for 3-5 year-olds and 81% for 6-9 year-olds.

Childminders make up 63% of all places for 0-2 year-olds. They provide the majority of childcare available for younger children especially in the

smaller municipalities. In around 120 municipalities childminders are the only available form of childcare for children aged 0-2 years as there in these municipalities are neither nurseries nor age integrated institutions provide places for 0-2 year-olds. Shared childcare schemes only provide a small proportion of all day-care – around 6,000 children enrolled or around 1%.

Over recent years the percentage of children covered by day-care facilities (including after-school clubs), has continued to increase considerably, see table below. The percentage of ½-2 year-olds covered by day-care facilities has risen from 56% to 64%. There has been a larger increase for 3-5 year-olds, from 75% to 92%. However, the largest increase has been for 6-9 year-olds with an increase from 49% to 81%, where the largest growth area has mainly been after-school clubs.

Development in percentage of children covered by day-care facilities aged ½-9 years, April 1999. Percentage of coverage distributed in age groups for the period 1989-99

	1989	1994	1999
½-2 years	56%	60%	64%
3-5 years	75%	85%	92%
6-9 years	49%	64%	81%

Source: Social Statistics

Goal 27: Increased acquisition by individuals and families of the knowledge, skills and values required for better living, made available through all educational channels, including the mass media, other forms of modern and traditional communication and social action, with effectiveness measure in terms of behavioural change

No statistics available.

Additional indicators for monitoring children's rights:

- *Birth registration. Proportion of children 0-59 months of age whose birth are reported registered:*

All children are registered at birth.

- *Children's living arrangements. Proportion of children 0-14 years of age in households not living with biological parent:*

The table below shows the number of children between the ages of 0-14 not living at home, the proportion they constitute of all children aged 0-14 and of the entire population.

- *Orphans in household. Proportion of children 0-14 years of age who are orphans living in households:*

To illustrate this point, specially analysed figures have been used from Statistics Denmark, which show the number of children who receive special child benefit according to the Child Benefit Act article 4.

Unfortunately no figures exist for the period before 1994 (4th quarter 1993). Table 2 shows the number of children aged 0-14 who have lost both parents and the number of children of the same age who have lost one of their parents (either their mother or their father). Furthermore, table 2 shows children aged 0-14 who have lost one or both of their parents as a proportion of all children aged 0-14 and as a proportion of the entire population.

- *Juvenile justice. Age of criminal responsibility:*

15 years of age.

- *Overseas development aid. Percentage of ODA allocated to providing basic health and education services to children:*

In 1999, Denmark allocated 12.6 percent of its bilateral development assistance to health sector programmes and 9.7 percent to education sector programmes. The total bilateral development assistance was **DKK 5.5207 billion**.

Additional indicators for monitoring the Integrated Management of Child Illness (IMCI) and malaria

- *Home management of illness: Proportion of children 0-59 months of age reported ill during the last two weeks who received increased fluids and continued feeding:*

Total incidence rates of illness during the last 2 weeks was 25 percent for children aged 1-2 years and 13 percent for children aged 3 to 5 years.

- *Care-seeking knowledge. Proportion of caretakers of children 0-59 months of age who know at least two of the following signs for seeking care immediately: child not able to drink or breastfeed, child becomes sicker, child develops a fever, child has fast breathing, child has difficulty breastfeeding, child has blood in stools, child is drinking poorly:*

Approximately 100 percent.

Number of children aged 0-14 not living at home

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Not living at home, 0-14 years	7034	6820	6759	6763	6917	7055	7249	7526	7899	8161	8718
Total number of children, 0-14 years	880557	873630	874945	882563	889251	900916	919680	936947	952188	967643	981148
Children not living at home as proportion of 0-14 year-olds	0.80%	0.78%	0.77%	0.77%	0.78%	0.78%	0.79%	0.80%	0.83%	0.84%	0.89%
Children aged 0-14 not living at home as proportion of entire population	0.14%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.13%	0.14%	0.14%	0.14%	0.15%	0.15%	0.16%

Source: Statistics Denmark, Statistical News, Population and elections, household and family statistics , various years. Note: Children not living at home are people under 18 years of age, who do not live with any of their parents, do not form part of a couple and do not have children of their own living at home. The figures are compiled on 1 January each year.

Orphaned children aged 0-14

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Number of children (0-14 years) who have lost both parents	57	114	57	64	72	76	77
Number of children (0-14 years) who have lost one of their parents	10828	10744	10703	10866	11233	11429	11336
Number of children (0-14 years) who have lost one or both of their parents	10885	10858	10760	10930	11305	11505	11413
As proportion of 0-14 year-olds	1.22%	1.21%	1.17%	1.17%	1.19%	1.19%	1.16%
As proportion of entire population	0.21%	0.21%	0.20%	0.21%	0.21%	0.22%	0.21%

Source: Statistics Denmark, Specially analysed figures regarding child benefits. Note: The figures are taken from data regarding the number of children who receive special child benefit, see Child Benefit Act §4. The figures for 1994 are based on a census carried out at the end of 1993 and annually thereafter.