

Contribution by the

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

on the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Report on Investments in the Rights of the Child

Question 1: Please provide information on the main challenges related to the mobilization, allocation and spending of resources for children. Please provide examples of good practices undertaken to prioritize resource mobilization, allocation and spending towards child-focused-sectors, such as health, education, social protection, child protection and child rights, in your national policy and/or overseas development assistance strategy.

One good practice example:

With the **Education and Participation Package** (*Bildungs- und Teilhabepaket*) for families provided for in the Social Code II, the supplementary child allowance and the housing allowance, the Federal Government has embarked on the right path to provide effective support for children from low-income families. The evaluation conducted among recipients of the supplementary child allowance shows that through the Education and Participation Package:

- benefits and services are offered that, in the eyes of parents, address the right issues (70 per cent) and provide genuine assistance to children (80 per cent);
- 90 per cent of users feel greatly (32 per cent) or somewhat (58 per cent) financially relieved as a result;
- there has been an up to 70 percent reduction in the failure to take advantage of extra tuition opportunities, excursions lasting several days and lunch together with other pupils (Source: BMFSFJ (2012): The Education and Participation Package: Opportunities for Children of Families receiving the Supplementary Child Allowance. Berlin).

Question 5: What mechanisms are in place to assess the impacts of fiscal policies and budgets on children? Are human rights and child rights impact assessments conducted in relation to budget planning and execution? Please indicate measures in place to identify the needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable children, and formulate targets that assess the impact of public spending on these groups.

One of the mechanisms to assess the impact of measures on children:

From 2009 to 2013, the **Comprehensive Evaluation of Marriage and Family-related Benefits** was conducted. One of the four targets investigated in the context of the Comprehensive Evaluation is "Child Promotion and Wellbeing ". Within the framework of the evaluation, the larger part of Germany's marriage and family-related benefits, amounting to an annual volume of 150 million euros per year, was revisited to determine what contribution these benefits made to children's well-being. A basic concept for measuring child wellbeing was developed and also used in evaluating the benefits.

It was revealed that childcare was the only benefit that had a direct positive influence on the well-being of children (understood as a measurable positive influence on childhood development). The other benefits have more of an indirect impact. For example, a child's wellbeing is enhanced when the family's risk of poverty is averted through the provision of monetary benefits, or the family's financial stability is secured in the long term through improvements in the reconciliation of family and working life.