Memorandum of Understanding

between

the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

and

the United Nations Children's Fund

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),

Recognizing the importance of promoting the equity agenda for children, adolescents and women based on the Convention of the Rights of the Child (the "CRC") and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women ("CEDAW"), thus pursuing human rights, equity and development results for children, adolescents and women, reducing poverty and social inequalities, and promoting the principles of child-related thematic areas of the Millennium Declaration and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (the "MDGs") with equity for each and every boy and girl;

Recognizing as well the Parties' shared commitment to the principles articulated in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

Emphasizing that the survival, development and protection of children are universal imperatives which are integral to the full realization of human rights, and that priority actions for the most disadvantaged children must be undertaken in order to secure the survival, protection and development of children;

In view of highly intensified cooperation in 2012,
Encouraged by the achievements of their previous collaboration based on shared goals and shared missions,

Committed to overcoming fragmentation and to strengthening coordination and collaboration within the UN as well as between the various development partners,

Recognizing the vital role of GIZ, KfW, the Federal Foreign Office and the German National Committee for UNICEF (together referred to herein as 'All other relevant Parties') in shaping and implementing various initiatives and programs within the areas of this MoU,

Emphasizing the role of UNICEF's Executive Board as its governing body, providing intergovernmental support and oversight to the organisation, in accordance with the overall policy guidance of the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Have reached the following understanding

I. Background and Purpose of the Collaboration

Since BMZ assumed responsibility for UNICEF within the German government in 2012, a number of high level meetings have been held to discuss strategic areas of cooperation, including a meeting between the BMZ Minister and the UNICEF ED in Tidewater, Australia, the DED meeting with BMZ's Parliamentary State Secretary in Berlin, and most recently the meeting between the BMZ's State Secretary and UNICEF DED at UNICEF's New York Headquarters where the idea of this MoU was suggested and agreed.

Through this MoU, UNICEF and BMZ aim to strengthen their relationship and therefore provide a coherent, predictable, flexible and structured framework for collaboration with the overall objective of supporting UNICEF and the realization of its mandate and activities. The partnership covers BMZ's Core Contribution to UNICEF, as well as support and collaboration in specific programmes, and particularly identify and implement concrete possibilities for cooperation in the field of international agenda setting, knowledge sharing, sector policy development, and contributions to country and regional programmes.

II. Focus Areas of cooperation

Apart from the close collaboration of BMZ in UNICEF's Executive Board, BMZ and UNICEF aim to expand cooperation at global and country levels in areas of mutual interest. The parties hereby identify the following results areas based on the respective UNICEF Medium Strategic Plan and the strategic priorities of the Government of Germany.
a **Education**

BMZ and UNICEF are already cooperating in diverse forums to promote basic education and help children be prepared to start school and complete a quality and inclusive education. This includes e.g. the close cooperation within the framework of the Global Partnership for Education as well as our common support of the Education for All Goals and the Millennium Development Goals 2 and 3. The common target is to create a world in which all children and young people, regardless of their sex, socio-economic background or circumstances, have access to free, compulsory and quality education. BMZ and UNICEF are committed to further explore cooperation in the field of early childhood education, an area, in which we are currently deepening our commitment and funding. An example of existing cooperation in this area is the support of the piloting of Early Childhood Development (ECD) and inclusive education initiatives in communities affected by violence in El Salvador. Parties recognize the importance of formal and informal education for violence prevention, stability and peacebuilding.

b **Water. Sanitation. Hygiene (WASH)**

BMZ and UNICEF intend to cooperate more closely to improve water supply, sanitation and hygiene in order to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the full realization of the human right to water and sanitation. The Parties plan to do so in cooperation with interested joint partner countries through promoting hygiene, improving access to safe water and sanitation, ensuring water quality, promoting water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in schools, and addressing climate changes and environmental challenges. WASH makes a major difference in health, education and socio-economic development. A good example of existing cooperation is the “Fit for School” approach which promotes - among other behaviours – personal, hygiene, hand washing and tooth brushing as a daily school routine as well as biannual de-worming. GIZ is already cooperating with UNICEF in supporting the Philippine Department of Education in the implementation and scaling up of the Philippine School Health Programme in the South East Asia region. “Fit for School” provides simple, evidence-based interventions that can be delivered at low cost in elementary schools to improve health and reduce illness and missed days of school.

c **Health**

BMZ and UNICEF aim to ensure that children, particularly poor children, have access to quality health services and facilities. By focusing on improving health systems including health worker skills, the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI)
approach reduces childhood mortality and morbidity. Eliminating barriers to accessing care requires the development of sustainable health systems, including financing mechanisms. BMZ and UNICEF will collaborate to ensure that healthy children become healthy adults, protected from disease, including HIV/AIDS. The Parties already collaborate in the Polio Eradication (GPEI) in Nigeria and India, and within the Global Alliance of Vaccine Initiatives (GAVI) in Tanzania. UNICEF is also carrying out vaccine procurement activities financed by the German Government. In Malawi, UNICEF is realizing the emergency procurement and distribution of drugs, in the framework of a German financial cooperation project. Close collaboration exists in many programmes covering sexual and reproductive health and rights in several countries (e.g., Malawi, Burkina Faso) as well as in those countries where both parties contribute to a SWAp, e.g., by financing health baskets.

d. Nutrition

BMZ and UNICEF aim to collaborate to ensure children are protected from malnutrition and reach their optimal growth. Areas of collaboration will include infant and young child feeding, micronutrients, management of acute malnutrition and nutrition in emergencies, and HIV and nutrition. Parties will collaborate to reinforce strategies and where possible work within the context of global partnerships such as SUN, REACH, GAIN, involving where relevant and possible the private and NGO sector.

e. Child protection

Parties aim to collaborate to protect children against all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse in development and humanitarian contexts. The Parties intend to do so by strengthening national and international child protection systems and by promoting positive social practices to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation and abuse, including sexual abuse, child trafficking, early marriage, child labour and child recruitment. Child protection promotes child well-being and allows for child survival, education, and socio-economic development and ensures children are protected from exploitation and violence. Existing partnerships include for example support to orphans and vulnerable children in Zimbabwe. Protection of children affected by armed conflict is also a strong mutual concern of both Parties, there has been cooperation in this respect in the past.

f. Child Poverty and Discrimination

BMZ and UNICEF attach high priority to the human right to live in peace and dignity, and for children and youth to thrive in supportive family and community environments,
protected from the effects of poverty and discrimination. Across the developing world, children in the poorest quintile are twice as likely to die before their fifth birthday when compared to the richest. They are twice as likely to be stunted, nearly three times as likely to be underweight and much less likely to attend primary school. Very often, income poverty is aggravated by other dimensions of inequity, such as disability, ethnicity or gender. Income poverty is only one dimension that leads to disadvantage or exclusion of children from basic services. The most disadvantaged and excluded children, living in the poorest and most remote communities, are often subjected to multiple deprivations and violations of their rights. In many contexts, the interplay of these factors exacerbates a child's exclusion. The Parties are committed to reduce exclusion and promote equity in all areas of collaboration.

**g Children's Rights and Business Principles**

Developed by UNICEF, the UN Global Compact and Save the Children, the Children's Rights and Business Principles are the first comprehensive set of principles to guide companies on the full range of actions they can take in the workplace, marketplace and community to respect and support children's rights. The Principles are built on existing standards, initiatives and best practices related to business and children, and seek to fill gaps to present a coherent vision for companies to maximize positive and minimize negative impacts on children. The Parties believe that this is a promising initiative which is an excellent starting point for cooperation in the field of child rights and business and agree to promote the initiative where possible.

**h Humanitarian aid, recovery and peacebuilding.**

BMZ and UNICEF recognize the close linkage between humanitarian action and development programmes, which will result in systematic strategies to build resilience and deliver sustainable change for disadvantaged and excluded children. The parties aim to contribute to building resilience and addressing the underlying causes of instability and conflict. This will enable stronger linkages between development and humanitarian interventions in UNICEF-supported programmes, informed by a sound risk and conflict analysis. UNICEF and BMZ cooperate in fragile situations. The parties collaborated in recovery and rehabilitation programmes for Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan. The German Government, as the Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict played a crucial role in incorporating attacks on schools and hospitals in the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism of Children Affected by Armed Conflict.
i **Leveraging technology for development effectiveness**

The parties strive to leverage innovation for development effectiveness. Information technology, innovative technology and social media can be used to gather real time information, provide efficient and effective solutions to development problems and can often serve as a cost-effective way to reach the most vulnerable groups of people. Information on new technology options and innovative solutions will be shared between the parties and made available, where possible.

j **Joint projects with Germany's bilateral development cooperation**

BMZ and UNICEF strive to expand and enhance the collaboration in the partner countries of German bilateral development cooperation. This entails a closer direct coordination and harmonization in sectors where both, UNICEF and the German government through its implementing agencies, are already active. Furthermore, both sides intend to explore opportunities for further division of labor and complementarity of approaches and programmes, also in dialogue with other development partners in the field.

III. **Other forms of cooperation**

1. To achieve the common goals BMZ will continue to contribute to UNICEF core and non-core resources to support development, recovery and rehabilitation programmes of UNICEF, subject to the availability of funds and in accordance with the relevant German laws and regulations. BMZ and UNICEF will regularly exchange views on the necessity of enlarged contributions as well as on the structure of the contributions.

2. BMZ and UNICEF will pursue this strengthened partnership to raise awareness for children’s needs and rights through a variety of mechanisms, including:
   
   a. Joint events and efforts to advocate and mobilize the public on jointly identified issues. For example, in 2013, BMZ and the German National Committee for UNICEF will carry out youth consultation on the post 2015 development agenda.
   
   b. Joint organisation of seminars, workshops and technical training in fields of mutual interest. In 2013, Germany will actively engage in UNICEF’s preparation of the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2014-2017, inter alia through participation in the Peer Review Group on Results and other workshops.

3. Human resources The proportion of German staff in UNICEF has been steadily increasing over the last years. BMZ and UNICEF welcome this development and wish to
continue the good collaboration over the coming years. BMZ and UNICEF will maintain an open dialogue on retention of German JPOs and also explore collaboration for the Emergency Roster from the Center for International Peace Operations (Zentrum für Internationale Friedenseinsätze, ZIF) in Berlin.

IV. Follow-up Mechanism

BMZ and UNICEF intend to hold high level as well as technical meetings on a regular basis to further develop this partnership as well as to give guidance for the respective programme areas and offices.

V. General Provisions

This MoU does not create any legally binding obligations. All activities undertaken pursuant to this MoU are subject to the applicable rules and regulations, as well as the availability of appropriated funds, personnel, and other resources.

VI. Entry into effect and amendments

This MoU will come into effect on the date of its signature by the authorized representatives of BMZ and UNICEF. The MoU will remain in effect unless terminated by mutual consent. UNICEF and BMZ will update the MoU when relevant and in a consultative manner.

Berlin, 8 March 2013

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