

INDICE

Foreword by Kofi A. Annan, secretary-general of the united Nations	4
Our promise to the worlds children by Nelson Mandela and Graca Machel	6
The state of the worlds children 2001: early childhood What happens during the very earliest years of child's life, from birth to age 3, influences how the rest of childhood and adolescents unfolds. Yet, this critical time is usually neglected in the policies, programmers and budgets of countries. Drawing on reports from the world over, the state of the world's children 2001 details the daily lives of parents and other caregivers who are striving in the face of war, poverty and the HIV/AIDS epidemic to protect the rights and meet the needs of these young children.	8
Choices to be made: The opening sections makes the case for investing in the earliest years of childhood, before the age of three, when brain development is most malleable and rights are most vulnerable. It sets out the options governments have about where and when to make investments to ensure that children under three have their rights protected and their needs met. And it introduces the brain development programmers, not only for children, their parents and caregivers, but for the progress of nations as a whole.	28
A necessary choice: attention to the youngest children is most needed where it is most difficult to guarantee: in countries where the seemingly intractable grip, of poverty, violence and devastating epidemics seriously challenges parent's hopes and dreams for their children. This section argues that early child-care can act as an effective antidote to cycles of violence, conflict, poverty and HIV/AIDS. The only responsible choice: parents struggle, often against great odds, to do right by their children. In industrialized and developing countries alike they find advice and aid from informal support networks and community agencies with innovative childcare programmers. The final section describes these experiments and experiences and makes the case why, in the long run, investment in ECD pays off.	44
Maps Three maps illustrating quality of life indicators for early childhood; the link between the status of women and the well-being of children; and the challenges to children's growth and development	67
Statistical tables Eight tables with 193 countries listed alphabetically, regional summaries and world totals, presents the latest data on the well-being of children. Countries are first ranked in descending order of their estimated 1999 under-five mortality rate, which is then included in each of the following tables:	75
Basic Indicators	78
Nutrition	82
Health	86
Education	90
Demographic indicators	94
Economic indicators	98
Women	102

Rate of progress	108
References	64
Index	112
Glossary	116