

SITUATION ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC 1998

INTRODUCTION	7
BASIC DATA ON THE CZECH REPUBLIC	9
1. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC BACKGROUND	11
1990-1997: Years of transition	11
Current status of legal and judicial systems	13
Conclusions	14
2. DEMOGRAPHICS	15
Age structure and other characteristics	15
Life expectancy at birth	17
Birth rate and fertility rate	18
Marriage and divorce rates	19
Abortion rate	20
Infant mortality	20
Demographic trends	20
Conclusions	21
Recommendations	21
3. HEALTH STATUS OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS	23
Child growth and development	23
Infants	23
Congenital developmental defects	23
Breastfeeding	24
Iodine deficiency	25
Immunization	26
Tuberculosis	26
Situation of child health	26
Acute morbidity	27
Chronic morbidity	27
Dental care	27
Adolescent health	28
Injuries, accidents and poisonings	28
HIV/AIDS	29
Health care for pregnant and delivering women; planned parenthood	29
Health promotion	29
Environment	30
Conclusions	32
Recommendations	32
4. EDUCATION	33
Child and youth development and education	33
Economic situation of the school system	33
Education system	34
Nurseries	34
Kindergartens	34

Compulsory education	35
Basic school	35
Lower secondary school.....	35
Upper secondary schools	36
Curriculum content and the matura examination.....	37
Special schools.....	38
Post-secondary education.....	38
Higher education institutions	39
Relevant aspects and developments in the school system	39
Social development, educational institutions and other facilities belonging to the schools.....	39
Education of ethnic groups	40
Reached level of education and unemployment ratios.....	41
Conclusions and recommendations.....	42
5. THE CRC AS REFLECTED IN LAWS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC	43
Recently passed or pending legislation (as of March 1997).....	48
Conclusions.....	48
6. LEGAL STATUS OF CHILDREN	49
Legal matters concerning care and protection of children.....	50
Conclusions.....	50
7. FAMILY	51
Economic situation of families	51
Legal policy regarding the family	53
Social policy.....	53
Subsistence minimum	54
Child allowance.....	54
Conclusions.....	55
Recommendations.....	56
8. STATUS OF WOMEN.....	57
Women under totalitarianism.....	57
Women in the transition period.....	58
Employment	58
Unemployment.....	58
Wage inequality	58
Women in public office.....	59
Rights of employed women.....	59
Maternity leave	60
Sexual harassment.....	60
Violence against women	60
Conclusions.....	61
Recommendations.....	61
9. CHILDREN IN NEED OF SPECIALIZED CARE.....	63
Municipal Councils and FCCD.....	63
Substitute family care.....	64
Adoption.....	64
Substitute family foster care	65

Institutional public care	66
Institutionalized physically and/or mentally disabled children	68
Conclusions.....	69
Recommendations.....	70
10. MINORITIES, REFUGEES AND CHILDREN OF MINORITIES IN CZECH SOCIETY	73
National minorities	73
Refugees.....	73
Conventional refugees	73
Temporary refugees	74
The Roma minority	75
Roma children.....	75
Roma children and their families.....	76
Education of Roma children	76
Health and the Roma child	77
Recommendations regarding the Roma	77
11. CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS AT RISK.....	79
Negative effects of lifestyle on child and adolescent health	79
Smoking	79
Alcohol	79
Drug abuse	80
Crimes against children	81
Abused and neglected children.....	82
NGO activity in the area of abused and neglected children	82
Children and juveniles in conflict with the law	83
Criminality of children under the age of 15.....	83
Juveniles between the ages of 15 and 18 in conflict with the law.....	83
Child exploitation: labor.....	85
Sexual exploitation and abuse	85
Prostitution.....	86
Recent developments in the area of child sexual abuse.....	86
Gambling	87
Suicide	87
Conclusions and recommendations	88
12. NGOs.....	89
Independent associations and organizations for health and social care of children and women.....	89
Independent associations	89
Charitable associations	89
Crisis centers and family guidance	90
Associations for human rights	90
Problems of independent and humanitarian organizations	90
Conclusions.....	91
13. CONCLUSION	93
List of Graphs.....	96
List of Tables.....	97
References	99