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Short-duration country programme document

Equatorial Guinea

Summary

The short-duration country programme document for Equatorial Guinea is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval. The Board is requested to approve the aggregate indicative budget of \$736,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$390,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the year 2007.

The situation of children and women

1. Equatorial Guinea is a small country of just over 1 million inhabitants, 400,000 of them children. The double-digit economic growth of the last decade that was driven by the oil and gas sector has tapered off to a more modest 6 per cent in 2005. Estimates from 2003 indicate that 82 per cent of the State's income derives from the oil sector. Budgets allocated for basic services are insufficient, and do not create favourable conditions for equitable development. There is a growing lack of confidence in the effective and efficient utilization of oil revenues.

2. There have been some improvements in social indicators but they are not commensurate with the country's recent economic growth. The under-five mortality rate decreased from 206 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 153 in 2002, and the infant mortality rate from an estimated 120 per 1,000 live births in 1980 to 101 in 2001. In spite of weak institutional and organizational capacities, routine vaccination

* E/ICEF/2006/10.

coverage has increased (from 27 per cent in 2002 to 60 per cent in 2004), but still remains low. The prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS is 7.2 per cent, and the World Health Organization estimates that at the current rate of expansion, 10 per cent of the population will be infected by the end of the present decade.

The country programme for 2007

Summary budget table

(In thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Programme</i>	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Policy development, advocacy and partnerships	350	133	483
Child survival and development	200	257	457
Cross-sectoral costs	186	—	186
Total	736	390	1 126

3. The development of the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) has been delayed. This short-duration programme has been prepared to allow time for the finalization of the CCA and UNDAF.

4. The previous programme for 2002-2006 focused on two main areas: promotion and monitoring of implementation of children's and women's rights; and child survival and development. The mid-term review, held in 2004, found that programme implementation was hindered by weaknesses in government ownership, civil society and capacities in health and education. The mid-term review recommended that emphasis be put on child protection issues.

5. The overall aim of the short-duration country programme is to assist the country in its progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. It aims to continue building capacities for the realization of the rights of children and families while creating a child-friendly environment. It will continue the child survival and development component of the previous programme, and have a new component on policy development, advocacy and partnerships, which will also cover child protection.

Programme components

6. The **policy development, advocacy and partnerships** programme aims to ensure that protection and fulfilment of the rights of children and families are given high priority within national policies and programmes. It consists of three projects:

(a) The advocacy, social policy and monitoring and evaluation project will support the development of institutional capacities of key partners to monitor and report on child rights. It will establish monitoring and evaluation systems through the implementation of integrated monitoring, evaluation and research activities for the entire country programme. *DevInfo* will be used to strengthen data collection systems within the UNDAF;

(b) The communication, partnerships and resource mobilization project will strengthen strategic partnerships and alliances with the private sector and other key

potential partners. Communication strategies will be developed to support behavioural change in the districts targeted by the child survival and community development projects;

(c) The child protection and HIV/AIDS project will strengthen capacities of families, communities and institutions to identify and react rapidly to situations of child exploitation, trafficking, domestic violence, neglect and abuse. UNICEF will support the Government in reforming its legal system, with a focus on juvenile justice. In the area of HIV/AIDS and children, the project will also address two of the four “Ps” of the campaign *Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS*: protection and care to children orphaned by AIDS and the prevention of HIV/AIDS among youth and adolescents.

7. The **child survival and development** programme aims to strengthen capacities for the realization of child rights at the level of families, service providers and policy makers through two projects. The child survival project will aim to reduce infant and child mortality rates due to vaccine-preventable diseases, malaria, diarrhoeal diseases and malnutrition nationwide, and to reduce maternal mortality in selected districts. The objectives of the project are to achieve 90-per-cent immunization coverage for children under five years of age. In the area of HIV/AIDS and children, the project will also address the other two of “Ps” of the campaign *Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS*: prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and paediatric care. The education and community development project will contribute to reducing gender-based disparities in terms of completing basic education, and to reduce the incidence of diarrhoeal diseases among children under five years of age through increased access to and utilization of potable water, school latrines and hygiene education. In case of declared emergencies, the programme will ensure that every child has access to life-saving interventions. UNICEF will support government development and implementation of large-scale avian flu communication strategies based on the local context and building capacities to ensure health and well-being of people, especially children, through adoption of protective hygiene and nutrition behaviour and practices to stop the spread of the disease.

8. Partnerships with the private sector, especially the oil sector, will be expanded. Combined with the resources of the State, these partnerships will eventually create a sustainable child-friendly programme environment.

9. The office will continue to be managed under the Area Office in Libreville, Gabon, thus offering expanded opportunities for staff exchanges and developing the capacities of counterparts.