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Recommendation for funding from other resources without a recommendation for funding from regular resources

PROINCLUSION subregional programme

Summary

This document presents a recommendation for funding from other resources without a recommendation for funding from regular resources. It covers nine countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. It is designed to strengthen multi-country initiatives for social inclusion and the reduction of racial and ethnic disparities, through an innovative public policy approach, the development of regional and subregional development frameworks, and South-South technical cooperation. The Board is requested to approve the funding from other resources in the amount of \$44,500,000 for the period 2008-2012.

* E/ICEF/2007/13.

The situation of children and women

1. Latin America is one of the most unequal places in the world in terms of the distribution of economic and social resources. Because of patterns of social exclusion that have existed from colonial times, approximately 150 million Afro-descendants and another 50 million indigenous people — representing approximately 38 per cent of the region's population — suffer the worst social and economic indicators.

2. The economic growth that the region has experienced in the past five years has not reduced ethnic and racial inequalities. These inequalities have further deteriorated the already vulnerable human rights situation of indigenous and Afro-descendent communities, and continue to be a challenge for the achievement of the targets of the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals.

3. In the nine programme countries, children and adolescents make up a large portion of the 376 million-strong population. The demographic profile is also changing: while the average age of populations in these countries is rapidly rising, the indigenous populations retain a large proportion of the young. Regardless of the total indigenous population living in each country, all countries have pluri-ethnic, pluri-linguistic and multicultural diversity, and for several countries the diversity is very pronounced. In Brazil, for example, more than 200 ethnic groups are represented. In Bolivia, the indigenous population represents 62 per cent (5 million) of the total population, and in Peru 32 per cent (8.5 million). In Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the estimated indigenous population varies from 500,000 to one million.¹

4. Despite the ethnic and linguistic diversity, similarities exist across the countries. The vast majority of indigenous Andean peoples, for example, belong to Aymara and Quechua ethnic groups, the latter comprising approximately 10 million people living in six countries, speaking variations of the same language, and sharing the same cultural patterns and values. Similarly, Guaraní people live in four countries, and Mapuche people live in Argentina and Chile. There are also similarities among indigenous groups in the Amazon Basin, as well as among Afro-descendent groups who are mostly settled in the coastal areas. Social indicators for the same indigenous group can vary within countries or across borders. For example, the infant mortality rate (IMR) of Guaraní children in Bolivia is 67 per 1,000 live births, while that for the Mbyá Guaraní in Paraguay is 93 per 1,000 live births. Similarly, the IMR of the Aymara in Chile is 15 per 1,000 live births, compared with 69 per 1,000 live births for Aymara in Bolivia.²

5. One of the main problems in the analysis of the situation of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants was, until very recently, the lack of disaggregated data, which made it difficult to track disparities and progress towards their reduction. This lack has been highlighted repeatedly by indigenous peoples in national and international forums, such as the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. As a result, several countries and international organizations have recently started producing disaggregated data. However, with few exceptions, these efforts are still incipient and often do not incorporate a gender perspective and or disaggregate data

¹ ECLAC, *Social Panorama of Latin America 2006* (Santiago de Chile, 2007).

² ECLAC, *Social Cohesion: Inclusion and a Sense of Belonging in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Santiago de Chile, 2007).

by age group. In addition, the fact that most Afro-descendent and indigenous children are not registered at birth hinders the gathering of vital statistics between census periods.

6. Of the nine countries, six have not made sufficient progress towards Millennium Development Goal 1 if they are to reach the target by 2015.³ Although Chile has already met the Goal, 15.8 per cent of the country's indigenous children live in extreme poverty, and 26.4 per cent are poor. Ecuador is on track, and Brazil has made rapid progress towards achieving the goal. Still, Brazil's challenge is to reduce disparity, especially considering that 61 per cent of the poor and 66 per cent of those living in extreme poverty are of African descent. ECLAC estimates that the incidence of extreme poverty among indigenous and Afro-descendent groups in relation to the rest of the population ranges from 1.6 in Colombia to 7.9 in Paraguay. In Bolivia, the pervasive impact of poverty affects 74 per cent of indigenous and 53 per cent of non-indigenous people. In Peru, it affects 63 per cent of indigenous versus 43 per cent of non-indigenous people. The National Department of Statistics of Colombia reports that 85 per cent of the Afro-Colombian population faces poverty and marginalization, without access to basic social services. The Social Indicators System of Ecuador reveals that the incidence of poverty related to unsatisfied basic needs in the Afro-Ecuadorian population is 70.3 per cent.

7. In all countries, illiteracy rates in populations vary markedly by their ethnic and racial origin. In Ecuador, the average illiteracy rate is 9 per cent; however, for indigenous peoples it is 28.2 per cent. Afro-Brazilians 15 years of age and older are twice as likely to be illiterate than white Brazilians (19.8 per cent compared with 8.3 per cent). Gaps in education that result from discrimination and exclusion impact the unequal distribution of income. In Peru, 4 in every 10 Afro-Peruvian children leave school because of lack of resources, and 1 of every 4 leaves school due to a plethora of factors, among which is the perceived irrelevance of school teachings to their culture. Similarly, in Colombia, 40 per cent of all school-age indigenous children drop out because the curriculum and school context is not culturally appropriate or, for rural children, the school schedule does not consider the crop cycle.

8. The average IMR is approximately 60 per cent higher among indigenous than non-indigenous peoples in the entire region.⁴ In Paraguay, the IMR for indigenous children is on average 68, while the national average is around 40.

9. Maternal mortality rates (MMR) in indigenous communities are among the highest in the region. In Bolivia, for example, where the (MMR) is 229 per 100,000 live births, only 52 per cent of indigenous women receive qualified health services at childbirth, compared to 61 per cent at the national level. In addition, peoples in the Amazon Basin frequently suffer diarrhoea, malaria, pneumonia and other serious diseases. Moreover, health services are organized according to the western medical approach, which generally does not consider the indigenous holistic vision and belief.

³ ECLAC, *The Millennium Development Goals: A Latin American and Caribbean Perspective* (Santiago de Chile, 2004). This reference is based on 2002 and 2003 data.

⁴ ECLAC, *Social Cohesion: Inclusion and a sense of Belonging in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Santiago de Chile, 2007).

10. In Ecuador, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has been increasing in the provinces of Cotopaxi, Esmeraldas, El Oro, Pichincha and Guayas, where a high percentage of the population is indigenous and/or of African descent. Similarly, in Colombia, Santander and Quindio provinces in the coastal region have the highest rates of HIV infection. In a recent study conducted among Peruvian Amazonian indigenous communities (Chayahuita ethnic group) HIV sero-prevalence and syphilis in adults were 7.5 per cent and 6.3, respectively, while the estimated adult prevalence for the whole country was 0.6 for HIV. For indigenous groups, HIV and other transmittable diseases represent a threat to their very survival. This was the case, for example, with hepatitis B, which infected 82 per cent of the Candoshi/Shapra population in the Amazon region, and incurred a high potential risk of vertical transmission.

11. Every year, countries in the Andean, Amazon and Chaco⁵ areas are prone to natural disasters. Acute and often large-scale response and recovery efforts are commonly needed, especially for vulnerable communities, most of them indigenous. The massive floods in Bolivia in 2006 affected more than 34,000 families, the recent eruptions of the Ecuadorian Tungurahua volcano temporarily displaced over 10,000 persons, and in Colombia, the 2005 Galeras volcano eruption affected thousands more. Additionally, in the largely indigenous Andean regions of Peru and Bolivia, recurrent cold snaps persistently affect children and women, causing pneumonia and other health problems.

12. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has repeatedly voiced concerns about the prevalence of ethnic discrimination affecting indigenous and Afro-descendent children in all nine countries. The United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children identifies indigenous and Afro-descendants as particularly vulnerable to all forms of violence, including armed violence. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people reported a series of suicides among Emberá girls in 2004 in the department of Chocó, Colombia, which were attributed to collective depression. Similarly, the media and other groups reported several suicides among Guaraní-Kaiowa people in Brazil, related to bad living conditions.

13. As a result of poverty, an increasing number of indigenous and Afro-descendent boys and girls are employed, largely in domestic work and agriculture, and this work often includes the worst forms of child labour and crime. The latter work includes harvesting sugar cane, mining or association with armed groups, as is the case in Colombia. In addition, children are vulnerable to other forms of exploitation, such as commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, as in the triple border area (Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay); Amazon area, including Brazil, Colombia and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; or the Brazil, Colombia and Peru area.

14. An international migration pattern is emerging, particularly from Ecuador and Bolivia to other countries in the region and to other regions, which greatly affects indigenous groups. Migration disintegrates thousands of families and often results in children being left alone or with only one parent. In most countries, internal and intra-regional migration has resulted in the movement of large numbers of indigenous people to urban areas, where the migrants face difficult conditions, and commonly lack access to water and sanitation facilities and other services. The

⁵ The Chaco territory includes parts of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay.

expansion of large-scale agricultural projects, armed conflicts, and fumigation of illicit crops have led to population displacement to border areas, where children are more vulnerable to exploitation and risk of not accessing health care, proper nutrition and protection services. In addition, the children may face the loss of their family relations, their important traditional social networks, and their language.

15. Because of all these factors, and to the increased social unrest that resulted from inequitable distribution of resources and revenues from industries such as gas, oil and lumber, more attention is being paid to the rights and needs of indigenous and Afro-descendent people. A number of countries have sought to widen democracy through constitutional or legal reforms aiming for the full inclusion of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendents. In addition, new institutions have emerged with the mandate to implement inclusive social and economic public policies. Increasingly, indigenous, Afro-descendent and landless people themselves have become political actors in the local and international arena. Their voices and demands can no longer be ignored.

16. Despite the subregional integration and the existence of several integration mechanisms, such as the Southern Common Market, Pacto Amazónico and the Andean Community of Nations, there is social development along national borders where governmental services are almost non-existent. Drug trafficking, crime, and violence characterize these areas, and the indigenous and Afro-descendent inhabitants are particularly affected.

Key results and lessons learned from previous cooperation, 2003-2007

Key results achieved

17. Since the end of 1980s, UNICEF has been supporting two subregional programmes, namely PROANDES and PROAMAZON, whose beneficiaries are mostly indigenous children and women. These programmes had evolved from traditional service delivery towards capacity-building to prepare local governments to meet their responsibilities. During the 2003-2007 programme cycle, one of the key strategies was the strengthening of local planning at the municipal level, which resulted in increased access to quality services for integrated early childhood development; intercultural bilingual education; birth registration; health; water and sanitation; and protection. The strategy comprised a human rights-based approach that ensured the participation of indigenous children, women, families and communities, along with national and local authorities, in working towards achieving international human rights standards.

18. The Bolivian component of PROANDES and PROAMAZON, the Integrated Local Development Programme (*Programa de Desarrollo Local Integrado, or PRODELI*), contributed to Millennium Development Goals 2 and 3 in 52 municipalities by expanding early childhood development services from 16 per cent to 21 per cent of children under 6 years of age through community-based services. The rate of primary school completion, as well as girls' retention in school, was also increased. Young people and women participated in literacy programmes in 5 Amazonian and 28 Andean municipalities. More than 50 per cent of communities in the Andean targeted area have access to water and sanitation facilities. The

programme included an intercultural dimension that facilitated the revival of ancestral native languages by involving indigenous elders.

19. A 2006 evaluation of UNICEF Peru programme interventions within the framework of PROANDES showed that in 223 rural communities, and for 75,000 children under three years old, chronic malnutrition was reduced by 12.8 per cent between 2000 and 2004, anaemia by 23.7 per cent, and vitamin A deficiency by 25.2 per cent. The programme strategy was based on a participatory approach at the local and community level to address the underlying causes of child malnutrition, namely through the provision of culturally appropriate caring practices for children and women, quality health services and healthy environments, and access to culturally appropriate food security. The local governance experience promoted since 1993 through PROANDES was the basis for the national participatory policy through the Forums for the Fight against Poverty.

20. Important results were achieved by introducing more culturally appropriate birth delivery methods, such as traditional vertical delivery. In Peru, 74 waiting houses were established to ensure that pregnant women coming from remote areas could have access to institutionalized childbirth. The MMR was reduced from 224 to 163 per 100,000 live births during the programme period. In Venezuela, 19 indigenous communities in middle Orinoco valley received medical attention and immunizations through the health clinic set up on the river. In Colombia, more than 60 municipalities in five departments on the Pacific Coast and the Andean region budgeted resources in their basic health care plans for improving maternal and infant health and reducing maternal and infant mortality.

Lessons learned

21. In the PROANDES and PROAMAZON programmes, UNICEF has accumulated countless lessons regarding local planning and shifting from basic social services delivery to an integral human rights-based approach, which also encompasses service delivery. During this time, and in line with national strategies, UNICEF programmes have engendered local and community development, resource mobilization, and decentralization of public institutions. The Andean and Amazon subregions have experienced a number of economic, political and social advancements that have impacted national social policies. These changes have presented an opportunity for moving from small, demonstrative projects to inclusive sustainable development, and to participative policy dialogue in decentralization processes.

22. Over the last two decades, PROANDES and PROAMAZON have developed important processes that have led to the empowerment of the most marginalized and have given them the means to voice their views and concerns. This has been the case with local indigenous organizations, in particular women's organizations. Social actors participating in these local development programmes have engaged in collective consultation on the planning, implementation and evaluation processes. One of the key conclusions is that the promotion of local participatory policy dialogue is essential for social inclusion.

23. Nevertheless, due to challenges in achieving inter-country dialogue, multi-country development cooperation, particularly that covering border areas, has not been sufficient. As a result, opportunities for cross-fertilization of ideas and experiences in similar sociocultural and linguistic environments have been lost.

Programmes would benefit from such strengthened horizontal cooperation, including by municipal and other local authorities, especially as a means of equalizing differences in social indicators of indigenous groups that span borders. Local authorities could have benefited in particular from the lessons learned in intercultural public policy approaches to health and education.

24. Finally, a key lesson learned from PROAMAZON and PROANDES was the importance of the participation of indigenous communities and organizations in dealing with multiple forms of discrimination that include gender, ethnicity and age. Through participation strategies, indigenous groups are now more able to recognize bias and discrimination and take corrective action. Children and women have been key actors in these efforts.

The country programme, 2008-2012

Summary budget table

The planned amounts are equally apportioned among the five years of the programme.

<i>Other resources* (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
<i>2008-2012</i>	
<i>Country</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Argentina	1 000
Bolivia	10 000
Brazil	5 000
Chile	1 000
Colombia	6 500
Ecuador	6 000
Paraguay	1 500
Peru	7 000
Venezuela, BR	2 500
Subregional coordination	4 000
Total	44 500

* The planned amounts from each country are equally apportioned among the five years of the programme.

25. All funds are from other resources and therefore no regular resources are requested. At the national level, funds will be allocated as follows: approximately 30 per cent for the first component on strategic information and knowledge management for inclusion; 55 per cent for the component on intercultural public policies for children's rights; and 15 per cent for cross-cutting costs, which will include administrative support, programme staff and communication. The funds for subregional coordination will be allocated to the regional office and include technical assistance, comparative studies and evaluations, and partnerships.

Preparation process

26. Each country participating in the PROANDES and PROAMAZON subregional initiatives incorporated a review of the activities and strategies in its midterm review (MTR) process, in cooperation with counterparts. Furthermore, several coordination meetings took place with the participation of Representatives, Deputy Representatives and Programme Officers, who identified areas where UNICEF had accumulated added value for work with indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants. This programming exercise, along with the UNICEF medium-term strategic plan (MTSP), defined the strategic lines of action that were the basis of this programme. Other key inputs for this programme were the existing Common Country Assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) processes and documents.

27. In addition, at the national level, country offices ensured the participation of indigenous and Afro-descendent groups in planning processes. UNICEF also convened several meetings with the Indigenous and Afro-descendent Consultative Group, which has served as a regional advisory body to the regional office on indigenous and Afro-descendent issues since 2003. The Consultative Group recommended that the regional office and country offices promote multi-country interventions for indigenous peoples and children across national borders for MTSP achievement. Important donors, such as the Governments of Spain and Finland, have also emphasized, with their financial contribution, the need for multi-country approaches to achieve Millennium Development Goals.

Goals, key results and strategies

28. PROINCLUSION is aimed at tackling the biggest challenge Latin America faces for Millennium Development Goals achievement: to reduce disparities in the social indicators of indigenous and Afro-descendent populations and other vulnerable groups, by strengthening national and local capacities towards the development of an intercultural public policy approach and South-South cooperation. The intercultural approach implies that UNICEF will promote culturally appropriate interventions and a cross-fertilization of visions and beliefs regarding tolerance of, respect for and understanding of the value of diversity. Along with its partners, UNICEF will not limit its interventions to the indigenous and Afro-descendent groups, but will also work closely with other populations present in the specific areas of intervention, namely the Amazon, Chaco, Andean, urban and coastal areas. While emphasizing indigenous and Afro-descendent populations, the strategy will also ensure that these other excluded groups will be mobilized.

29. PROINCLUSION seeks the systematic reduction of disparities that affect vulnerable groups in selected municipalities of the Amazon Basin, the Chaco region, the Andean region, bi-national and tri-national areas and coastal zones. It will also benefit children in urban areas to which indigenous and Afro-descendants have migrated.

30. All countries will be engaged in intercultural policy dialogue for a social agenda in selected sociocultural environments, involving local indigenous and Afro-descendent leaders, local governments, and national Government representatives. When appropriate, the dialogue will also involve bi-national, or multi-national agreements between local social and political leaders to set agendas and define

programme objectives. Initial consultations are being carried out in countries that have indigenous leaders/consultative group mechanisms.

31. The key expected results in selected most-disadvantaged sociocultural environments include: (a) national and local monitoring and evaluation institutions and systems strengthened to produce timely and culturally appropriate disaggregated data; (b) the establishment of a harmonized core set of qualitative and quantitative indicators, which will serve as baseline and for setting targets; (c) at least 80 per cent of indigenous and Afro-descendent children and children from other vulnerable groups have a birth certificate; (d) the proportion of the population accessing quality culturally appropriate basic health services is increased by 40 per cent; (e) there is at least a one-third decrease in chronic malnutrition, the IMR and MMR, in line with the goals of *A World Fit for Children*, subject to national plans; (f) there is at least a 30-per-cent increase in completion rates in pre-primary and primary education due to improved access and quality culturally appropriate education; (g) at least 80 per cent of primary schools offer intercultural education and bilingual education where needed; (h) at least 80 per cent of adolescents and women correctly identify ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission; (i) at least 75 per cent of pregnant women are accessing antenatal care, utilizing the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (of HIV) “plus” services; (j) at least 60 per cent of the population has access to systems protecting the rights of children and women against violence and exploitation.

32. The main strategies to accelerate progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals are: (a) monitoring and evaluation, including the production of disaggregated data; (b) knowledge-generation and systematization of lessons learned; (c) South-South cooperation towards capacity-development and empowerment; (d) evidence-based advocacy for intercultural public policies; (e) the strengthening of partnerships for indigenous and Afro-descendent children’s rights; and (f) the fostering of the participation of rights holders to engage with duty bearers in policy dialogue.

33. UNICEF and its partners will seek to influence public policy-making with an intercultural approach at all levels of government, promoting thematic and financial prioritization for the realization of indigenous and Afro-descendent children’s and women’s rights.

34. The regional office will provide technical assistance and identify complementary actions that enhance programme initiatives with South-South cooperation and promote the engagement of countries in joint programming. The office will also interact with relevant inter-governmental bodies and other United Nations regional offices. The systematization and dissemination of information about experiences will provide important feedback for initiatives developed in indigenous and Afro-descendent territories, for the scaling-up of good practices, and for the configuration of subregional policies for disparity reduction.

Relationship to national priorities and the UNDAF

35. This multi-country programme is consistent with all existing UNDAFs, as it seeks to: (a) strengthen national capacities to formulate and implement policies and programmes to reduce disparities; and (b) strengthen national statistical systems, primarily to gather and utilise disaggregated data that reflect the situation of most excluded populations.

Relationship to international priorities

36. The proposed multi-country programme is fully aligned with global and regional commitments, such as the Millennium Declaration/Millennium Development Goals, the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination, the Monterrey and Rio Group Summit, and Education for All. In addition to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions will constitute the international legal framework.

37. The programme will contribute to global priorities defined by UNICEF in the MTSP, as it will advocate for greater investment in children and the fulfilment of all their rights, regardless of the children's social or ethnic origins or geographic location. The programme is also consistent with approved country programme documents.

38. The programme will also support the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, by United Nations Special Rapporteurs, and by the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children.

Programme components

39. PROINCLUSION has two components: (a) strategic information and knowledge management for inclusion; and (b) intercultural public policies for children's rights.

40. The main objective of the first component, **strategic information and knowledge management for inclusion**, is the production and dissemination of community-based strategic information on the situation of indigenous, Afro-descendent children and other vulnerable groups in the areas of education, health and protection as means to influence policy development, planning, implementation and evaluation. The goal is for local and national innovative experiences in this area to be scaled up into other countries so that baselines, surveys, and other cost-effective monitoring and evaluation methodologies could be shared.

41. The component will focus on the following areas: (a) capacity-building for existing national monitoring and evaluation systems to support the disaggregation of data so that it reflects existing disparities, and to ensure quality and timely data collection, analysis and dissemination; (b) the elaboration of a core set of qualitative and quantitative indicators; (c) the fostering of community-based approaches to monitoring and evaluation, focusing on data collection, analysis and dissemination and fostering increased participation from rights holders; and (d) supporting the establishment of knowledge-management networks to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and dialogue among stakeholders.

42. Key strategies include (a) the promotion of technical- and research-level "communities of practice" comprising academic institutions and national and subregional technical bodies and evaluation networks, UNICEF and the United Nations, with support from the Innocenti Research Centre; and (b) the promotion and dissemination of good practices in policy-making within health and education

systems, government institutions dealing with ethnic diversity and equality, and public registry offices, among other entities.

43. Another key strategy of this component is the “democratization” of knowledge within communities and among adolescents and children — that is, ensuring that knowledge is available, shared and assimilated. Various culturally appropriate communication initiatives will be developed for schools and communities, including tool kits in local languages and the use of radio and information technology.

44. Qualitative and quantitative strategic information, including information on innovations and lessons learned, will be shared, within countries and across the region, among governments and civil society, the United Nations system, and regional bodies and organizations.

45. The programme will support national and regional bodies in systematizing, evaluating and disseminating knowledge about innovative approaches and normative work in the area of intercultural public policies. Efforts will include the distillation of information and development of tool kits for duty bearers and rights holders. This knowledge base will contribute to the scaling-up of innovative projects and strategies.

46. The second component, **intercultural public policies for children’s rights**, will aim to assist countries in (a) building more democratic societies, and (b) reducing disparities and the social exclusion of indigenous and Afro-descendent children, and other excluded populations while promoting intercultural understanding and inclusion as key values. Intervention will take place at the national level and at local levels. The aims are complementary and will create synergy to strengthen social policy and investments based on knowledge of experiences and lessons learned and on community participation.

47. The main interventions will link with the following focus areas of the MTSP: (a) child survival and development, with a strong focus on birth registration, health and nutrition; (b) intercultural bilingual education, with a focus on girls’ education and life skills; (c) protection from violence and exploitation; and (d) advocacy and partnership for inclusion.

48. This programme component will place special emphasis on understanding cultural practices, social dynamics and power relationships that prevent or enhance the realization of children rights by promoting the full participation of children, adolescents, women and other segments of society in these efforts. Many children and their families face multiple factors of exclusion within their own communities, and therefore this programme component will also focus on children with developmental delays and disabilities; children left behind by migrant parents; and children affected by HIV/AIDS.

49. Birth registration systems will be strengthened by working with national and local authorities to eliminate administrative and logistical impediments, and by promoting locally based systems and networks, particularly in rural and border areas. Awareness-raising will take place among parents, caregivers and communities on the importance of birth certification as an essential element of ensuring a child’s right to identity and of social policy and investment.

50. Efforts in education will aim to improve access and retention in pre-primary and primary education through the support of bilingual programmes for children

whose mother tongue is not the main national language. Support will be therefore given to producing teaching materials in local languages and to fostering the learning and use of various means of communication in multilingual environments.

51. The health interventions will contribute to reducing infant and maternal mortality using a broader concept of well-being utilized by most of the indigenous cultures, which involves family, community and environmental health, and harmonic and respectful social relationships. In this sense, there is a continuum between health and protection from abuse and violence.

52. Both programme components will emphasize cross-border initiatives and South-South and multinational cooperation on shared issues. The components will also build on the experiences, progress achieved and human resources of indigenous peoples in various settings, enhancing the use of indigenous languages. One key aim is to reduce the cost of interventions through cooperation and capacity development. Efforts will go towards strengthening the capacity of local organizations to engage in dialogue for creating and improving intercultural public policies.

53. All components will have the following cross-cutting interventions: a gender-sensitive approach, adolescent development and participation, and emergency preparedness and risk management.

Major partnerships

54. The subregional programme is defined by two approaches: (a) South-South and multinational cooperation in which UNICEF serves as a convener, broker and facilitator; and (b) the promotion of partnerships and broad and inclusive policy dialogue, including with intergovernmental bodies such as the Andean Community of Nations, the Andean Commission of Jurists, the Andean Health System, the Indigenous Round Table participating in the Andean Community of Nations, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, the Indigenous Fund and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

55. Government programme partners include national institutions promoting children's rights and promoting racial and ethnic equality, Ministries covering public health and social welfare, education, justice, labour and related issues; and Supreme Courts of Justice. Additional Government partner institutions include the national HIV/AIDS Programmes; statistics offices; technical secretariats for planning; general directorates for environmental health; and national water and sanitation authorities. Universities, research centres and the Latin America and Caribbean Evaluation Network are also key partners.

56. Throughout this multi-country initiative, UNICEF will promote joint programming for greater United Nations coherence and ensuring a stronger United Nations voice in all participating countries. At the subregional level, joint programmes will be promoted with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund.

Monitoring, evaluation and programme management

57. This multi-country initiative will be jointly managed by country offices and the regional office, through ad hoc coordination mechanism for each of sociocultural environments. The country offices will take the lead role in convening national and local actors to engage in policy dialogue taking an intercultural approach. The regional office will coordinate multi-country activities, provide technical guidance and identify useful lessons learned that could be replicated or brought to scale.

58. Monitoring and evaluation will require the identification of common indicators for social inclusion to produce comparable data and analysis. On the basis of this information, the regional office will engage with partners in the formulation of social agendas. The regional office will also play a lead role in advocacy at the subregional level to promote alliances with intergovernmental bodies and other United Nations agencies.

59. An annual meeting with focal points from all participating countries as well as subregional meetings with national/local counterparts and allies will be held. An MTR will take place in 2009.
