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Draft country programme document**

Pacific Island Countries

Summary

The draft multi-country programme document for Pacific Island Countries is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and comments. The Board is requested to approve the aggregate indicative budget of \$27,500,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$33,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2008 to 2012.

* E/ICEF/2007/13.

** In accordance with Executive Board decision 2006/19 (E/ICEF/2006/5/Rev.1), the present document will be revised and posted on the UNICEF website no later than six weeks after discussion of the CPD at the Board session. It will then be approved by the Executive Board at its first regular session of 2008.

The situation of children and women

1. Despite their relatively small population, the 14 Pacific Island Countries have unique challenges arising from their scattered geography (covering over 30 million km² of ocean), their wide cultural diversity and their differing levels of vulnerability and economic and social development, both within and between the countries. Social and economic development is constrained by geographic isolation, frequent natural disasters, limited domestic markets, inadequate infrastructure and capacity constraints. Globalization, economic modernization, and new lifestyle aspirations have created problems of cash poverty, poverty of opportunity, social isolation, and inequality across the Pacific. Compounding these problems are unfavourable policies and regulatory environments for trade and private sector development in a region where governments tend to dominate many economies.

2. While the average gross domestic product per capita improved from \$1,484 in 1990 to \$3,251 in 2000, Pacific Island Countries have made only moderate progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. An estimated 17 per cent of the population lives on less than \$1 per day, and several countries are experiencing economic decline. Under-five and infant mortality rates have dropped since 1990 but efforts must be intensified to reach 2015 targets: Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Marshall Islands and Vanuatu lag behind; Niue experienced large fluctuation in progress on account of its small population size; and both Tonga and Nauru have seen a deterioration. About 20 per cent of people living in the Pacific are yet to access improved drinking water sources, while about 30 per cent do not use sanitation facilities.

3. Twenty per cent of Pacific children were not immunized against measles in 2005 and large subnational disparities in vaccination coverage persist. Six out of 10 children in the Pacific are anaemic. Vitamin A deficiency, iodine deficiency disorders and other micronutrient deficiencies are prevalent, while low rates of exclusive breastfeeding still persist. Poor infant and young child feeding practices combine with childhood infections (diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections and malaria) and parasitic worm infestations to impair learning capacity, lower productivity, and raise infant and child morbidity and mortality.

4. Given the estimated total fertility rate of 4 children per woman, access to emergency obstetric care remains a major challenge for rural and outer-island communities. The average pregnancy rate among girls aged 15-19 years is 6 per cent, although it exceeds 7 per cent in Solomon Islands and Kiribati, and reaches almost 10 per cent in Vanuatu and the Republic of Marshall Islands. Data from several countries showed that about one third of women attending antenatal care clinics had at least one sexually transmitted infection; and women less than 25 years old had higher rates of infection. While cumulative numbers of reported HIV cases remain within the range of a concentrated epidemic in most Pacific Island Countries — except for Tuvalu and Kiribati, which are rapidly moving towards the threshold of a generalized epidemic — adolescent pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) reflect the prevalence of unsafe sex, a potential driver of an explosive epidemic.

5. Currently, 14 per cent of Pacific children do not enrol in primary school (19 per cent did not enrol in 1990). Of those children who enrol, 18 per cent never reach grade 5. Average transition to secondary schools stands at 81 per cent. Numeracy and literacy rates are falling in a number of countries, and the

appropriateness of national curricula is being questioned. Very few schools in the region are able to cater to children with disabilities.

6. Twenty per cent of the Pacific population is aged between 15 and 24 years, and this age group has the most challenging demand for access to education, health and employment opportunities. Eighteen per cent of young men and 19 per cent of young women (aged 16-24 years) are unemployed across the region. Unmet demands of this age group are compounded by weakening traditional family and community structures and are also exacerbated by political instability in some countries.

7. Legislation and law enforcement to cope with the rising incidence of child abuse and domestic violence require strengthening throughout the Pacific. Birth registration systems are weak or fragmented. Corporal punishment is widely accepted within households as well as in schools and villages. Despite evidence that commercial sexual exploitation of children is on the rise in the Pacific, most countries do not have legislation to contain it. Several studies suggest an increase in the number of homeless children and young people living away from their immediate families or on the streets. Alcohol and drug use also render children more vulnerable to various forms of violence and abuse, and increase the likelihood of young people getting into conflict with the law. Social services and welfare capacities are weak and are not generally accessible in rural and remote areas.

8. While all independent country Governments in the Pacific have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and most have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, excepting Nauru and Tonga, few countries have begun aligning policies and laws to Convention articles, and not all have submitted reports to the relevant monitoring committees. Only Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru and Vanuatu have acceded to the Optional Protocols on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and on children affected by armed conflict; and only Solomon Islands has acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

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

Key results achieved

9. Under the **integrated child health and development** programme, UNICEF Pacific provided substantial technical and financial inputs to the Pacific Immunization Programme — Strengthening partnership, which supported Pacific Island Countries and territories. The measles vaccination campaign in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji achieved coverage of over 95 per cent. Through the Vaccine Independence Initiative, UNICEF Pacific has consistently ensured the timely and cost-effective procurement and distribution of vaccines to all countries.

10. The UNICEF **education** programme demonstrated the impact of the child-friendly schools (CFS) approach in selected areas of Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. The Government of Vanuatu has adopted the CFS approach for all primary schools in Vanuatu as part of the education sector reform process.

11. Under the **adolescent development** programme, 750 youth trainers were mobilized to reach and empower 30,000 young people in communities. Approximately 200 women leaders from various women's organizations, faith-based organizations and seafarers' wives associations (Tuvalu and Kiribati) were empowered to promote HIV-awareness sessions in their communities.

12. With substantial funding support from the Australian Agency for International Development, the **child protection** programme developed a regional framework, based on the UNICEF global corporate strategy for child protection, which is now being operationalized in five countries.

13. Coordinated by the **planning, monitoring and evaluation** programme, reports on the situation of children, women and youth were updated for 14 countries during the last five years. A "State of Pacific Youth Report" (2005) was produced with Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). UNICEF also assisted the Republic of Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Niue and Tonga to prepare their initial reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. These reports, and the analytical work preceding, them helped to place children on the policy agendas of these countries.

14. The **rights advocacy and communication** programme developed evidenced-based communication strategies, which were implemented at the national and subnational levels to increase immunization coverage in the priority countries.

Lessons learned

15. As a result of the 2002 fast-track evaluation of the Pacific programme, UNICEF Pacific prioritized the least developed countries (LDCs), particularly Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The gains made from this approach inspired UNICEF and other United Nations agencies to prioritize LDCs in the formulation of the 2008-2012 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and in the expansion of United Nations capacities in these countries through the United Nations Joint Presence Initiative. UNICEF will expand its capacity in these priority countries during the 2008-2012 multi-country programme.

16. Despite many studies and surveys being implemented, there has been weak coordination to enable systematic tracking of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals or other development targets. Data capture has been inadequate or uneven. Accordingly, UNICEF aims to build partnerships to facilitate a coordinated mechanism of data-generation centred on child-related indicators.

17. Feedback from consultations with partners in different countries indicates that the competing demands implicit in the agenda of a complex mix of national, regional and multilateral development agencies and donors tend to overburden the capacity of small fragile Pacific Island Countries. The joint United Nations process for programme development will be carried forward into a process of joint programming to reduce transaction costs for Governments and partners. This must also lead to increased coordination of programme strategies and inputs at subnational and community levels.

18. The Integrated Area-Based Programme focusing on the three priority countries experienced three major constraints: government departments that tended to work in isolation despite emerging sector-wide approaches (SWAs); limited community involvement in government-led programmes; and low absorption capacity. To

overcome some of these challenges, UNICEF will facilitate integrative, convergent and participatory programming through the engagement of local partners to leverage their resources for children.

The country programme, 2008-2012

Summary budget table

<i>Programme</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Health and sanitation	5 500	12 000	17 500
Education	3 700	10 000	13 700
HIV and AIDS	3 700	5 000	8 700
Child protection	2 700	6 000	8 700
Policy, advocacy, planning and evaluation	6 000	—	6 000
Cross-sectoral costs	5 900	—	5 900
Total	27 500	33 000	60 500

Preparation process

19. The United Nations Country Teams in Fiji and Samoa started preparation of an UNDAF for the Pacific in April 2006 with a joint prioritization retreat. The UNDAF and UNICEF Pacific country programme, along with the country programmes for UNFPA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Fiji and UNDP Samoa, underwent extensive consultations with regional intergovernmental organizations, individual Governments, regional partners, national partners, development partners and donors from July 2006 to May 2007. The multi-country programme articulates contribution of UNICEF to the joint UNDAF which covers 14 countries, with a focus on LDCs, and incorporates the organizational priorities of the UNICEF medium-term strategic plan (MTSP).

Goals, key results and strategies

20. The overall goal of the UNICEF Pacific programme of cooperation 2008-2012 is to support the Governments of 14 Pacific Island Countries in progressively realizing child rights in accordance with national development strategies, the UNDAF, Millennium Development Goals, Millennium Declaration, and *A World Fit for Children* goals. The strategic vision of the proposed multi-country programme is multilayered and involves bringing the child dimension to Pacific regional policy debates, emphasizing child rights within Pacific regional strategies, and assuring the realization of key results at scale for children in three priority countries (Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu). Robust evaluation in these three countries will allow the demonstration of impact at national level as well as the documentation of evidence that can be channelled into regional Pacific policy and strategy formulation. Pacific regional programming will be pursued through cooperation with and capacity development of regional institutions.

21. In collaboration with Governments, civil society partners, United Nations agencies, donors, and regional institutions, the programme will contribute to the following key outcomes: (a) regional strategies, national policies and plans for equitable social and protection services are evidence-based and inclusive; (b) national systems enhance accessibility, affordability and the well-managed delivery of equitable, gender-sensitive quality social and protection services; (c) communities and individuals increasingly practise behaviours that reflect healthy lifestyles, social protection and better use of social services; (d) Pacific Island Countries are aware of and protect human rights and make available mechanisms to claim them; (e) national and regional statistical information systems and databases are established, strengthened (to support information systems), upgraded and harmonized, and focus strongly on demographic disaggregated data and poverty indicators; and (f) disaster risk reduction and management of responses to humanitarian crisis and natural disasters are effective and integrated into all forms of development.

22. Building on the previous programme of cooperation, the new programme will adopt the following strategies:

(a) evidence-based advocacy to influence the development and implementation of laws and policies that recognize children's rights and address clearly evident subnational inequalities;

(b) systematic capacity development of duty bearers at national and subnational levels through promotion of human rights-based programming, gender and youth mainstreaming, and results-based planning, management, monitoring and evaluation;

(c) enhancements to basic service delivery through the participatory evaluation of models and approaches;

(d) partnerships with and for children and young people at subnational, national and regional levels;

(e) intensified community engagement, social mobilization and communication for behaviour change and social change;

(f) partnerships with and leveraging of financial and/or technical resources of major development partners and regional organizations and institutions;

(g) enhanced national and subnational capacities for emergency preparedness and response in a coordinated and integrated manner.

23. Strategic region-wide initiatives will continue through cooperation with and capacity development of regional institutions. These initiatives will include the monitoring of the situation of women and children, advocacy for the revision of laws in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the development of monitoring frameworks, the expanded programme on immunization, life skills, and inclusive child-centred education and curriculum reform.

24. In the three priority countries, synergies across the core elements of health and sanitation, education, HIV and AIDS, child protection, policy, advocacy, planning and evaluation will be optimized to strengthen the capacity of families, communities, social sector service providers (health, education, protection), and

local leaders to implement and evaluate an essential range of simple, measurable actions for children.

25. The new programme will place greater emphasis on “upstream” policy analysis and advocacy. Social and economic policy analysis will be accomplished through the establishment of a Pacific-wide network of analysts supported by UNICEF Pacific in partnership with other key agencies.

Relationship to national priorities and the UNDAF

26. The goals, key results and strategies of the programme are aligned with National Development Strategic Plans (NDSPs) in all 14 Pacific Island Countries and fit within National Policies and Plans of Action across the main social-sector programmes in the three priority countries.

27. The United Nations Pacific Framework for Action sets out the strategic focus for the commitment of the United Nations to the Pacific Island region from 2008 to 2012. UNICEF will contribute to the four interrelated priority areas of the 2008-2012 UNDAF and their associated outcomes in the following ways:

(a) directly to **equitable economic growth and poverty reduction**: by supporting the evidence-based development, implementation and evaluation of child-centred and pro-poor NDSPs, policies and programmes that address social and economic exclusion;

(b) directly to **good governance and human rights**: by enhancing the capacity of national governance systems advocating for the prioritization of women and children in decision-making at all levels. Capacity development will focus on key social sector institutions at all levels;

(c) directly to **equitable social and protection services**: by assisting the development of evidence-based policies and enabling environments that progressively realize child rights and by strengthening social sector capacities at all levels to deliver affordable, quality, basic services with an emphasis on equality, inclusiveness and access;

(d) indirectly to **sustainable environmental management**: by assisting other United Nations agencies and partners in mainstreaming child-centred, gender-responsive environmental sustainability into regional and national policies, planning frameworks and programmes.

Relationship to international priorities

28. The programme’s key results reflect *A World Fit for Children* goals of promoting healthy lives, providing quality education, combating HIV and AIDS, and protecting children against abuse, exploitation and violence. The programme will support Pacific Island Countries in making further progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and in fulfilling promises made in the Millennium Declaration, primarily reducing child and maternal mortality; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women; combating HIV and AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; and protecting the vulnerable. The programme is directly aligned with the five MTSP focus areas.

Programme components

29. The **health and sanitation** programme will increase childhood immunization coverage (all vaccines) from a regional mean of 80 per cent to 90 per cent in all 14 countries, with a special focus on low-performing districts; will ensure that implementation of evidence-based maternal and child health plans and programmes is intensified in at least the three priority countries; and will support the development and implementation of community-based hygiene improvement and water safety plans that lead to a reduction in childhood diarrhoea and other water-related diseases.

30. To facilitate Pacific regional progress towards the achievement of the global twin goals of measles elimination and hepatitis B control (while maintaining polio-free status), support will be enhanced for the ongoing, region wide expanded programme on immunization (EPI) initiative to ensure effective EPI planning processes are in place including programme policy formulation, micro-planning, monitoring of implementation status of the annual work plans, and regular reviews. The EPI initiative will also ensure that effective cold chain systems are in place, vaccine needs are accurately forecasted and ordered in a timely manner, and health workers are trained to support the immunization programme in all Pacific Island Countries.

31. To further support Pacific Island Countries in combating HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases, the programme component will focus the skilled management of childhood illness, effective family and community Integrated Management of Childhood Illness practices with an emphasis on pneumonia and diarrhoea, the prevention and management of malaria (in malaria-endemic areas), and improved care for women of childbearing age (before, during and after pregnancy) and newborns. A comprehensive approach to prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV will be promoted in collaboration with the HIV and AIDS programme component.

32. To contribute to reduction in malnutrition among children and women of childbearing age, the programme component will develop new strategies for increasing exclusive breastfeeding and improving young child feeding practices, reduction of iron-deficiency anaemia, deworming and sustained vitamin A supplementation, and the implementation of regional food fortification standards.

33. The programme component will focus on mobilizing families, communities and schools in the three priority countries to significantly improve essential hygiene practices and environmental sanitation. Communities will also be supported in rehabilitating and building low-cost water systems and latrines. School-based water and sanitation activities will be coordinated with the Education programme and will include national school surveys on the status of water and sanitation facilities and hygiene education, which will form the basis of action planning with governments and partners. The availability of water and adequate sanitation will be mainstreamed into the child-friendly school initiative.

34. In at least the three priority countries, the **education** programme will increase by 10 per cent the number of children completing the transition to a seventh year of the formal education cycle or its non-formal equivalent. The programme component will offer targeted interventions linked to sector plans to ensure the timely enrolment of school-age children and increase the number of young people

transitioning between the primary and junior-secondary cycle. Attention will be given to increasing numeracy and literacy rates through improving the quality of teaching, the school environment, and the appropriateness of curricula. Non-formal education mechanisms that allow children to complete basic education will be explored in at least the three priority countries.

35. At a regional level, UNICEF will support education sectoral programming and policy development that draw upon a rights-based approach to ensure equitable provision of quality education for all children and young people. The programme component will use carefully evaluated child-friendly school initiatives as the key policy advocacy tool with Ministries of Education and key SWAp partners to foster a holistic, whole school approach to quality education. Support will also be provided to national curriculum reform processes, to reflect emerging issues facing young people in the Pacific.

36. The component will seek cross-sectoral linkages with health and sanitation (hygiene, water and sanitation in schools), HIV and AIDS (life skills), and child protection (reducing violence in schools). The programme component will also align itself with regional initiatives outlined in the Pacific Islands Forum Basic Education Action Plan and its key implementation mechanism, the Pacific Initiatives for the Delivery of Basic Education, including Pacific Resources for Education and Learning and basic education for children and youth with disabilities.

37. Support for early childhood development (ECD) will emphasize review, documentation and policy advocacy to mainstream ECD initiatives into education systems.

38. The **HIV and AIDS** programme aims to reduce the vulnerability to and impact of HIV and AIDS among the most at-risk populations in at least Fiji, Tuvalu and the three priority countries, with a special focus on children and women, through strengthened integration of maternal and child health services and community-based initiatives. The programme will also contribute to reducing the increasing burden of STIs. Cross-sectoral linkages with education and child protection will be critically important.

39. Social sector institutions at national, subnational and community levels will be equipped to provide information and support services on the prevention of STIs and HIV to populations most at risk, focusing on selected areas. At the same time, this programme component aims to increase the capacity of those most at risk to engage in STI- and HIV-prevention interventions, including community-based social mobilization activities, peer education, community-based counselling, mass media initiatives and behaviour development and change interventions.

40. To support Governments in their efforts to ensure that all women have access to STI treatment and HIV voluntary and confidential counselling and testing (VCCT), and that all children and women who are HIV positive receive antiretrovirals, the programme component will advocate for a PMTCT approach integrated with maternal and child health. Essential infrastructures will be upgraded, and access to and quality of VCCT in the context of PMTCT will be improved. Advocacy for overall improvements in maternal and child health services and support for the training of health-care workers in the establishment of continuum of care networks will also be conducted in collaboration with strategic partners and the health and sanitation, education, and child protection programme components.

41. The programme component will focus on the documentation of results to drive policy frameworks and programmes on HIV prevention, PMTCT-plus, and paediatric HIV. Vulnerabilities and risks will be mapped through situation analyses, and ongoing support will be provided for monitoring and evaluation systems to determine if these vulnerabilities and risks are being reduced. Evidence will be disseminated to duty bearers and rights holders at all levels of society.

42. In at least Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, the **child protection** programme will ensure that children are increasingly protected by legislation and are better served by justice systems that protect them as victims, offenders and witnesses; will ensure that children are better served by well-informed and coordinated child protection social services that ensure greater protection against and response to violence, abuse and exploitation; and will support families and communities in establishing home and community environments for children that are free from violence, abuse and exploitation. Three strategic approaches will be applied: the legal and regulatory system; the social welfare system; and the societal behaviour change system.

43. In relation to the legal and regulatory system, efforts will be made to advance the development of child protection legislation, ensuring greater protection of children against violence and abuse, in line with international standards. This strategy will focus especially on legislative review and reform of birth registration, juvenile justice and international adoption. Community-based initiatives for social reintegration will be strengthened and promoted along with diversion measures and alternatives to detention for children in conflict with the law.

44. In relation to the social welfare system, greater collaboration between police, social workers, the judiciary and community organizations will be promoted to prevent child abuse and to respond to children in need. UNICEF will continue to build professional capacity, including in the field of social work, and to develop simple yet effective systems for improved case management, case referrals and better recording of child abuse cases.

45. UNICEF will continue to support community-level initiatives to raise awareness on child protection concerns and assist families to recognize and build on positive traditional practices to keep children in safe home environments, including in times of emergency. The programme component will work closely with parents, caregivers and other community members in preventing child abuse and mitigating risks.

46. The programme component will seek cross-sectoral linkages with other UNICEF programme components to maximize impact. For example, collaboration with the education component will be sought in addressing violence in schools and out-of-school youth; the health and sanitation component will provide opportunities for the use of health systems to promote birth registration; and collaboration will take place with the HIV and AIDS component on orphans and other vulnerable groups. Children's participation will continue to be a key feature of the child protection programme's planning, implementation and monitoring.

47. The **policy, advocacy, planning and evaluation** programme will support the development of social and economic policies that are evidence-based and progressively address the rights of children, youth and women through inclusive mechanisms in at least the three priority countries; and will ensure that quality

disaggregated social data on children, young people and women are available and integrated into monitoring and evaluation systems in at least the three priority countries.

48. The programme component will help to build UNICEF Pacific as the knowledge leader on Pacific children's issues. Policy analysis will be achieved by means of a network of academic and regional organizations commissioned to support policy, planning, finance and statistical units in the three priority countries across at least three analytical streams: (a) how have policies and budgets influenced previous outcomes for children over the last 15 years?; (b) to what degree are current policies and government budgeting child-centred, gender-responsive and pro-poor, and what outcomes will they generate for children by 2012?; and (c) with a special focus on youth, gender and urbanization, how well do policies address the country's future needs, and what will be or could be the outcomes beyond 2012?

49. The programme component will join other United Nations agencies and regional organizations in the provision of technical support to national planning and statistical units and relevant subnational administrative bodies. DevInfo will be promoted to national counterparts as one option for country and United Nations monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals. The programme component will work closely with regional agencies and academia in the design and conduct of relevant research, including through the provision of technical assistance in population-based studies such as micronutrient surveys, the multiple indicator cluster survey, the Demographic and Health Survey, and Behavioural Surveillance Surveys.

50. Emergency preparedness and response planning and management will continue to be integrated into all programme components and link with country-level National Disaster Management Offices, United Nations and regional agencies. In this way, UNICEF and partners will seek to prepare for and respond to emergencies in a coordinated and integrated manner to mitigate the impact on children, women and vulnerable members of the population and to ensure rapid return to normalcy.

Major partnerships

51. The 2008-2012 multi-country programme will spearhead partnerships for children in a region where the operational centres of key partners are scattered and regular connection with them is challenging. Key UNICEF partners are located in at least five cities: (a) **Apia, Samoa**: the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Meteorological Organization; (b) **Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea**: the European Union, with responsibility for Solomon Islands and Vanuatu; (c) **Noumea, New Caledonia**: Secretariat of the Pacific Community and other agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific; (d) **Suva, Fiji** (location of the UNICEF office): Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, AusAID, JICA, NZAID, the Asian Development Bank, the European Union, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United

Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UNFPA, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; and (e) **Sydney, Australia:** ADB and the World Bank.

52. Through the UNDAF 2008-2012, the new programme will be able to maintain close linkages with the proposed work of UNDP, UNFPA, and other United Nations agencies such as ILO, UNESCO, UNAIDS, UNIFEM, UNOHCHR, FAO and WHO. Where possible, UNICEF will participate in country-led United Nations and regional organizational reviews and consultations (those of SPC, the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, or SOPAC, etc.). Joint Programming will be explored for all strategic areas of the multi-country programme.

53. The new programme will strengthen partnerships with regional development partners and donors including ADB, AusAID, NZAID, the European Union, the World Bank and JICA. Stronger relationships will be forged with regional bodies such as Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, SOPAC, SPC, teacher training colleges, the University of South Pacific, and the Fiji School of Medicine. New strategic alliances will also be sought with academic institutions in Australasia. At the national level, the programme will maintain close partnership with Ministries such as Agriculture, Education, Health, Home Affairs, Information and Communication, Provincial/District Administration, Women, and Youth and media groups; and will further strengthen national advisory bodies such as the national advisory councils on children or their equivalents. UNICEF will increase its engagement in health and education SWAPs in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and collaborate with pertinent donor-funded sectoral programmes in other Pacific Island Countries. At subnational level, UNICEF will mobilize non-governmental organizations, consortia, faith-based organizations and community groups.

Monitoring, evaluation and programme management

54. To monitor the situation of women and children and strengthen reporting on the Millennium Development Goals and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF will work closely with other United Nations agencies to support relevant government bodies, including national statistics units. The monitoring capacity of national advisory councils on children will also be strengthened through targeted training. A five-year integrated monitoring and evaluation plan (IMEP), supported by annual monitoring and evaluation plans, will be developed. The IMEP will identify other requirements for research and studies, surveys, implementation monitoring, and evaluations of process, outcome and impact in accordance with programme key results and core indicators.

55. Five-year country programme action plans will be developed jointly with Governments and United Nations agencies in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. A Pacific Island Regional Programme Action Plan will be developed to articulate region-wide initiatives. Programme coordination, management and monitoring and annual reviews will be ensured by the Ministry of Planning and Finance or its equivalent in each country. Annual work plans will be developed jointly with Governments and other agencies based on recommendations from annual reviews. The annual review of 2010 will be a midterm review.

56. Strengthened UNICEF field presence through the United Nations Joint Presence Initiative in seven Pacific Island countries, for which UNICEF has lead responsibility in Kiribati and Vanuatu, will assure better coordination with partner Governments and improved United Nations programme management.
