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Short-duration country programme document

Haiti

Summary

The short-duration draft country programme document for Haiti is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval. The Board is requested to approve the aggregate indicative budget of \$2,749,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$12,200,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for 2007. Given that there is an unrealized other resources balance of the five-year ceiling amounting to \$9,350,973, the Board is requested to approve an effective ceiling of \$2,849,027 for other resources in 2007.

* E/ICEF/2006/18.

The situation of children and women

1. Following many years of acute instability, civil unrest and violence, Haiti presently has a real chance for a more stable future. Democratic elections took place in February 2006, and the new President has publicly stated that children are at the top of his agenda, with basic services in education, health, water and sanitation the cornerstones of poverty reduction. The current stability provides an appreciable opportunity for children: to advance their rights, to get them into schools and to end their involvement in armed violence. With the recent lull in violence, areas in Port-au-Prince such as Cité Soleil, Delmas, Bel-Air and Martissant have once again become accessible (albeit with limitations) for humanitarian agencies. This means that about 500,000 people in need of basic services can better receive them.

2. Human-made and natural disasters have taken a heavy toll over recent years. In 2004, an especially severe year, 7,000-10,000 people died, and several hundred thousand became temporarily displaced or lost their homes. Analyses show that emergencies have resulted in 3 out of every 4 children being vulnerable, compared to 1 out of 4 in 2001. From 2001 to 2004, the number of orphaned children increased from 250,000 to 610,000 and at least 2,000 children annually were trafficked to the Dominican Republic. There are believed to be at least 1,000 children under the age of 18 associated with armed gangs in Port-au-Prince — a new phenomenon — and the number of children who live or work on the street remains at 2,500, only in Port-au-Prince.

3. Infant, child and maternal mortality rates remain by far the highest in the Americas, and data on the nutritional status of children, unfortunately, point to a negative trend. For example, the household-level use of adequately iodized salt dropped from 12 per cent in 2000 to 2 per cent in 2005. There are also several positive developments: the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is estimated to have dropped from 5.7 per cent in 2001 to 3.1 per cent in 2004. In 50 per cent of the reference health institutions, the mother-to-child transmission rate is around 6-7 per cent, compared with the 'normal' transmission rate of 30 per cent without intervention. Average vaccination coverage rates jumped from around 40 per cent in 2000 to around 70 per cent in 2004. Haiti continues to be polio and measles free (since 2001).

4. In 2002, water coverage for urban areas was about 50 per cent, as low as 27 per cent in many smaller cities, and 50 per cent in rural areas, where people make use of wells and rivers. As a result of a lack of consistent assistance effort, figures have not improved since 2002. Primary school enrolment rates also remain poor. Less than 2 per cent of children finish secondary school and 32 per cent of girls aged 6 and above never go to school.

The country programme, 2007

Summary budget table

(In thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Programme</i>	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Health and nutrition	499	7 000	7 499
Education	450	3 200	3 650
Child protection	450	2 000	2 450
Capacity-building, monitoring and evaluation	300	0	300
Advocacy, information, and communication	350	0	350
Cross-sectoral costs	700	0	700
Total	2 749	12 200	14 949

Reason for this short-duration submission

5. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF requested an extension of the 2002-2006 programme of cooperation in order to align the programming cycle with that of the Government, to begin in 2008. This will be based on the expected poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) to be produced during 2006-2007. The Common Country Assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework are under way this year, and in 2007 UNICEF will present the new country programme for 2008-2012 to the Executive Board.

Goals, key results, strategies/relationship to national and international priorities

6. The proposed programme for 2007 seeks to take the opportunities opened up by the current stability to address the urgent needs that have been outlined. UNICEF has been asked to work with the Government's transition team to define national plans for Education for All (EFA) and in the health sector. In line with UNICEF medium-term strategic plan focus area 5, public policy support and partnerships are being proposed. Work in this area will be undertaken jointly with UNDP, and in education, with the World Bank and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in particular. The country programme will be aligned with the PRSP.

Programme components

7. **Health and nutrition.** In 2007, key results will be to increase the vaccination coverage rate from 70 per cent to 80 per cent and to reverse the negative trend of household use of adequately iodized salt. In line with the recommendation of the mid-term review, the sub-project on HIV/AIDS should be translated into a cross-sectoral programme, as it touches all programmes. In its place, a sub-project on nutrition should be established. The five-year joint programme on maternal mortality reduction with UNFPA, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, is now in its second year, with steady progress being made to reduce the number of deaths in relation to pregnancies and childbirth in the three prioritized departments. The programme covers 75,000 pregnant women.

Complementing other efforts in maternal health, UNICEF and partners will cover maternity centres handling over 70 per cent of all health-centre births.

8. As a result of recent work and analysis on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), it has become clear that UNICEF needs to re-start this programme, which had significant impact in the 1980s and 1990s (more than 600,000 benefited). With 50 per cent of the population not having access to proper WASH services, Haiti is one of the 60 priority WASH countries of UNICEF. A six-year programme (2007-2012) has been drafted, with an overall goal of contributing to the survival and development of 530,000 rural children and their families and to improving their living conditions by providing access to quality and sustainable WASH services. This would mean increasing services to the rural population without access by 25 per cent. The programme is directly linked to the Millennium Development Goals, and beginning in 2007 will form part of the health and nutrition programme.

9. **Education.** Within the goal of increasing access, particular emphasis will be placed on ensuring that girls enrol and stay in school. In 2007, UNICEF will push for the elaboration of a national implementation plan for EFA by 2015, including free public schooling, through the back-to-school and zero-fees initiative (UNICEF-World Bank-United States Agency for International Development).

10. **Child protection.** In 2007, the programme will aim to reintegrate 15,000 child victims of violence, abuse and exploitation at family and/or community level. The programme will focus on children who live or work on the street; child trafficking; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; violence; and children who are orphaned and vulnerable, especially because of AIDS.

11. **Advocacy, information, and communication.** The mobilization of political leaders in support of children's rights, initiated during the recent elections, will be built upon to initiate and fuel public debate by increasing access to information and the use of media regarding child issues and social policies. In 2007, UNICEF will seek to establish a Child Rights Committee within Parliament.

12. **Capacity-building, monitoring and evaluation.** After a year's absence of the office's monitoring and evaluation function, the key expected result for 2007 is to have, and follow for each programme component, a monitoring plan to reinforce programme quality and enable the identification of results and their impact on children. In addition, UNICEF will help to monitor all other activities benefiting children, within the Millennium Development Goals framework.

13. **Supply.** In 2005, the country office had a supply input of over \$3.2 million, with 188 separate supply operations. Each shipment requires not only considerable work prior to the arrival of the goods (bidding, identification of exact specifications, market surveys, etc.) but also a large logistical operation after arrival (customs, storage, distribution, ensuring that supplies are delivered to recipients in good order, etc.). This work has been done with just two general service staff: one on a regular contract and the other on a temporary fixed-term contract. While the country office would like to assist in building — and relying more on — national capacity for procuring and distributing supplies, and to focus on upstream work (in line with focus area 5), this is not currently possible. In Haiti, there is significant direct intervention by UNICEF that normally should be undertaken by partners. Coupled with the poor financial and administrative capacity of many local partners to handle cash inputs, and thus a need to spread/minimize the risk of UNICEF inputs, the

supply function will continue to be a considerable challenge for the foreseeable future.

14. **Major partnerships.** The plans for public policy work, mainly focused on education, in partnership with UNDP, UNESCO and the World Bank, are explained above and represent a continuation of previous partnerships. The work with United Nations Office for Project Services, particularly in WASH, is continuing to expand. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in April 2006 with WFP covering inter alia nutrition, school feeding, HIV/AIDS, emergency preparedness and response, and logistics. All health activities continue to be directly coordinated with the World Health Organization /Pan American Health Organization. In child protection, UNICEF continues to work with and strengthen the non-governmental organization (NGO) networks, and the very close collaboration with the Organization of American States and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti on human rights and child protection continues to bear fruit.

15. **Programme management.** In order to work in Haiti's constantly changing environment, flexibility, preparedness and partnerships are key ingredients. Thus, UNICEF is partnering with a number of governmental organizations and NGOs to pre-position emergency stocks around the country, to conduct training in emergency management, and to prepare standby arrangements for emergency response. A number of initiatives on common United Nations services are also under way. As noted, a logistics partnership with WFP is already well advanced, and in 2007 the United Nations Development Group agencies will pursue the harmonized approach to cash assistance.

16. The UNICEF programme is moving from a project to a sector approach and is stepping up efforts to support the Government with its budget, and with coherent Millennium Development Goals-oriented and official development assistance funds — all in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. To this effect, advocacy and fund-raising (for the national budget) will form an integral part of UNICEF work in 2007. All this is to ensure that the office is oriented to results over process.
