



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
5 April 2007

Original: English

For action

United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

Annual session 2007

4-8 June 2007

Item 9 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Short-duration country programme document

Timor-Leste

Summary

The short-duration country programme document for the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval. The Board is requested to approve the aggregate indicative budget of \$1,125,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$10,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the year 2008.

* E/ICEF/2007/8.

<i>Basic data†</i> (2005 unless otherwise stated)	
Child population (millions, under 18 years)	0.5
U5MR (per 1,000 live births) (2002)	61 ^a
Underweight (% moderate and severe)	46
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births) (2000 adjusted ^b)	660
Primary school attendance (% net, male/female)	75/74 ^c
Primary schoolchildren reaching grade 5 (% , 2002)	..
Use of improved drinking water sources (% , 2004)	58
Adult HIV prevalence rate (%)	..
Child labour (% , 5-14 years old)	4
GNI per capita (US\$)	750
One-year-olds immunized against DPT3 (%)	55
One-year-olds immunized against measles (%)	48

† More comprehensive country data on children and women are available at www.unicef.org.

^a (U5MR = 136 per 1,000 live births) the latest data from 2004 Census of Population and Housing, National Statistics Directorate of Timor-Leste.

^b WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA adjusted estimate. Adjusted for misclassification and underreporting.

^c Differs from official age-group (6-11).

The situation of children and women

1. The security situation in Timor-Leste remains extremely volatile, with ongoing civil unrest in the lead-up to the general elections scheduled for May 2007. The unrest, and ethnic and gang-related violence, which first surfaced in April 2006, led to the displacement of 178,000 people as well as the burning and looting of houses and public buildings, including schools. By the end of January 2007, there were still approximately 100,000 internally displaced persons, with 29,000 in the capital and 71,000 in the districts.

2. Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals is uneven, with some indicators showing negative trends. Infant and child mortality rates, for example, seem to be increasing. The 2006 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis, conducted by the World Food Programme (WFP), showed 56 per cent of children under age 5 to be underweight. Progress in the education sector has been disrupted by the ongoing violence.

3. The United Nations continues to play a key role in assisting the transition to independence and in supporting nation-building in partnership with other development partners. Support is being provided through the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNIMIT), established by the Security Council on 25 August 2006. UNIMIT has a mandate to support the process of national reconciliation; the holding of the 2007 presidential and parliamentary elections; the building up of state and government institutions, especially in governance, human rights and justice; and the strengthening of the security sector, especially in policing.

4. Economic growth, although increasing, remains insufficient to address current high levels of poverty and unemployment. Government oil and gas revenues, increasing sharply, can be expected to have a positive impact on social sector spending. Prudent management of the increased revenue through a Petroleum Development Fund is likely to ensure continued good management of the country's fiscal resources.

5. Timor-Leste is one of the pilot countries using an integrated reporting process for all human rights treaties: congruent issues will be reported in a single document, while reports on specific issues will be prepared for the Committees on the relevant Conventions and for other treaties. In December 2006 the Government submitted their initial State Party report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. It will be reviewed by the Committee in Geneva in September 2007.

The country programme, 2008

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	249	3 250	3 499
Basic education	35	3 500	3 535
Child protection	198	950	1 148
Advocacy and communication	90	350	440
Adolescents and HIV/AIDS prevention	60	1 200	1 260
Planning, monitoring and evaluation	235	500	735
Cross-sectoral costs	258	250	508
Total	1 125	10 000	11 125

6. An other resources ceiling of \$10 million is proposed, representing an increase of \$3.5 million over the average annual level of funding approved for the current country programme. This primarily reflects an expected increase in humanitarian response needs in light of the current situation.

Reasons for this short-duration programme submission

7. The current country programme is being extended for one year following a decision adopted by the United Nations country team to await the completion of the general elections scheduled for May 2007. Following the elections, it is proposed to work jointly with the new Government to produce a new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and country programme to start in 2009.

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

8. The overall goal of the country programme is the progressive realization of the rights of every child and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

UNICEF cooperation aims to make sustainable gains that will help all children to grow up healthy and well-nourished in loving homes, enjoy six years of quality primary education, and to live in communities that protect them from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

9. Together with government and civil society partners, United Nations agencies and donors, the programme will aim to ensure achievement of the following results: (a) women and children benefit from quality health, nutrition and water and sanitation services; (b) the national primary school curriculum is implemented and enables 80 per cent of primary schools to deliver high-quality education; (c) effective child-protection systems are institutionalized; and (d) young people have developed appropriate life skills, have opportunities to participate in the life of their societies, and avoid HIV/AIDS.

10. The new programme will adopt the following strategies: (a) advocacy to develop policies and laws that recognize children's rights and address disparities; (b) improved delivery of basic services at the peripheral level; (c) capacity-building to strengthen programme implementation and monitoring through training and system development; (d) monitoring and evaluation; (e) partnerships with and for children; and (f) enhanced communication at all levels.

11. The programme is designed within the framework of the National Development Plan and contributes directly to the outcomes of the UNDAF.

Programme components

12. **Health and sanitation.** This programme will focus on the following: (a) expanding immunization coverage through ensuring that all immunization centres have a functioning cold chain and adequate supplies of vaccines, and that staff have sufficient capacity to vaccinate children and women in accordance with global health standards; (b) improving quality in the management of childhood illnesses and improved care for women before, during and after pregnancy. In targeted districts, this will be supported with a full package of preventive health and nutrition services aimed at increasing awareness of and demand for essential services; and (c) improving access to clean water and environmental sanitation through a process of community mobilization in selected villages and districts, with the aim of reducing water- and mosquito-borne diseases and increasing the management capacity of key duty bearers at the district and national levels.

13. The programme will continue the strategy of strengthening health services nationally, while converging health, nutrition, immunization and water and sanitation initiatives in the districts of Dili, Ermera, Liquica, Aileu and Manatuto.

14. **Basic education.** This programme will focus on the following: (a) improved educational quality, with teachers in 80 per cent of schools using active teaching and learning methods and materials, and principals better managing their schools and providing instructional leadership to teachers and students through the development of school improvement plans; and (b) an improved policy environment through evidence-based advocacy and technical support provided to the Ministry of Education and Culture, to be used to collect and analyse data, and formulate education policies and plans.

15. UNICEF will build on successes at the school level to strengthen national education policy and planning, and will support the ongoing development and

implementation of the new primary school curriculum while focusing on gender-sensitive teacher-training and student-centred participatory approaches.

16. **Child protection.** This programme will focus on the following: (a) the development and institutionalization of effective systems and services that prevent child abuse, exploitation and neglect and assist children who are in conflict with the law in society as a whole and in the camps for the internally displaced; (b) increasing awareness and action on child protection issues through continued support to child protection networks and community theatre, as well as promoting improved dialogue among key actors and increasing professional capacity to address the issues arising; (c) increasing the capacity of key actors in the judiciary and police to better implement juvenile justice principles and national legislation, including the Children's Code; and (d) the establishment and implementation of a national birth registration system.

17. The child protection programme will continue to support the establishment of the National Commission of Children and the reporting process on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

18. **Advocacy and communication.** This programme will focus on the following: (a) the integration of a national information, education and communication strategy into sectoral communication plans, and the creation of pilot mechanisms to strengthen information flow between districts and communities concerning the availability of basic services; (b) ensuring that media agencies and electronic, print and traditional communication networks are more knowledgeable about child rights issues, and that targeted non-governmental and community-based organizations will be able to apply a child rights approach to their work; and (c) ensuring that children and young people have opportunities to participate in the media and have greater access to radio and print information designed specifically for and about their lives.

19. **Adolescents and HIV/AIDS prevention.** This programme will focus on the following: (a) improving capacities of targeted national and local bodies to help young people to play a larger role in their society, to have improved livelihoods, to learn life skills and to remain safe from violence and HIV infection; (b) the development and implementation of a National Youth Policy in collaboration with the World Bank; and (c) improving access to information and counselling for HIV/AIDS prevention, including through support to the National AIDS Commission and key Ministries to implement the National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan.

20. **Planning, monitoring and evaluation.** This programme will focus on improving the capacities of key Government staff at national and sub-national levels to collect and analyse data, prepare evidence-based plans, and strengthen monitoring and evaluation. A joint project is anticipated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to establish DevInfo as the Government system for monitoring achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

21. **Cross-sectoral costs** will cover the salaries and travel costs of staff supporting country office operations, training and communication initiatives and the provision of office equipment.

Major partnerships

22. UNICEF will continue to support the development of Government-led Sector Investment Programmes in health, education, justice, water supply and sanitation, social services, local government and civil society, and communications. New partners in health and education include the Governments of Australia, and of Sweden and Japan, respectively. The Catholic Church will be expected to play a larger role in health promotion in communities, as well as in the adolescents' participation and literacy project. Village Chiefs will continue to play a key role in mobilizing communities, increasing demand for basic services and improving outreach. Collaboration will continue with several organizations: with the World Health Organization to expand the health surveillance system; with UNFPA on safe motherhood and birth spacing; with WFP on school feeding and maternal and child nutrition; and with UNDP to strengthen the justice system for children. The World Bank will be a partner in efforts to frame the national youth policy, and to ensure appropriate links between the primary and secondary school curricula.

Monitoring, evaluation and programme management

23. In general, monitoring, evaluation and programme management will continue as before. Data-gathering and research activities for each programme will be consolidated in an annual integrated monitoring and evaluation plan, which will facilitate the tracking of progress in implementation, provide information helpful in formulating the next country programme and facilitate the conduct of an annual review. UNICEF will continue its assistance to the National Statistical Office in collecting high-quality data related to programme results through surveys and routine reporting systems. UNICEF will also continue to develop the capacity of the Government to use DevInfo to improve the targeting and delivery of basic services.

Summary Results Matrix: Programme of Cooperation between Timor-Leste and UNICEF 2006-2008					
UNICEF MTSP priority area	Key results expected and baseline estimates	Key progress indicator	Means of verification	Major partners, partnership frameworks and cooperation programmes	Key results will contribute to
1. Young child survival and development	1.2 National DPT3 Immunization coverage reaches 85%. Baseline =67%	1.2.1 Immunization coverage	Ministry of Health routine reporting		UNDAF Outcome: Halt and begin to reverse child and maternal mortality rates WFFC Goal: Promote healthy lives MDGs: Reduce child and maternal mortality
2. Basic education and gender equality	2.1 80% of primary schools deliver student-centred, participatory education. Baseline = 37%	2.1.1 Percentage of schools which deliver student-centred, participatory education	Reports from training sessions and monitoring	Ministry of Education and Culture, Catholic Church and local NGOs. Public and private institutions involved in teacher training	UNDAF Outcome: 60% of children complete 6 years of quality primary education
3. HIV/AIDS and children	3.2 Young people have greater access to life skills education, and counselling for HIV/AIDS prevention	3.2.1 Number of high schools and NGOs in six districts serving out-of-school youth that provide life-skills education	Ministry of Education and Culture/UNICEF records	Ministry of Health UNDP, WHO, UNFPA Ministry of Education and Culture Secretary of State Youth and Sport	WFFC Goal: Combat HIV/AIDS and provide quality education MDGs: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (Goal 6)
4. Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse	4.3 Community-Based Child Protection System established and capable of protecting children from violence	4.2.2 Procedures and mechanisms for birth registration system developed and implemented 4.3 Child Protection Networks active in all districts	Progress reports and joint monitoring Progress reports	United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste Justice Working Group. Catholic Church, local NGOs, and community-based organizations	UNDAF Outcome: Foster respect for human rights, particularly for women and vulnerable groups WFFC Goal: Protect against abuse, exploitation and violence and promote healthy lives MDGs: Protect the vulnerable (Millennium Declaration, Section VI)

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5. Policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights	5.1 National Commission for Children (NCC) actively coordinates policies and programmes for children	5.1.1 Number of policies reviewed by the NCC and number of inter-Ministerial actions to address violations of child rights	NCC reports	Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Labour, the Office of the Human Rights Advisor to the Prime Minister and the NCC	WFFC Goal: Protect against abuse, exploitation and violence and promote healthy lives