



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited  
2 July 2007

Original: English

**For action**

---

### United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

**Second regular session 2007**

5-7 September 2007

Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

### **Draft country programme document\*\***

#### **Costa Rica**

#### *Summary*

The draft country programme document (CPD) of the Republic of Costa Rica is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and comments. The Board is requested to approve the aggregate indicative budget of \$3,000,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$2,000,000 from other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2008-2012.

---

\* 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.

---

*Basic data\**  
(2005 unless otherwise stated)

---

Child population (millions, under 18 years)	1.5
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	12
Underweight (% , moderate and severe, 1996)	5
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births, 2005)	36
Primary school attendance/enrolment (% , net male/female)	../.
Primary schoolchildren reaching grade 5 (% , 2003)	92
Use of improved drinking water sources (% , 2004)	97
Adult HIV prevalence rate (%)	0.3
Child labour (% , children 5-14 years old, 2002)	10
GNI per capita (US\$)	4,590
One year olds immunized with DPT3 (%)	91
One year olds immunized with measles vaccine (%)	89

---

\* More comprehensive country data on children and women are available at [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org).

### **The situation of children and women**

1. Costa Rica is known as a stable democratic nation having no army, and as a middle-income country with a low infant mortality rate (IMR) and high human development index. As a result, Costa Rica is on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals, and the new Government has introduced an additional challenge of going beyond the Goals with expanded targets. Nevertheless, in recent years, Costa Rica has experienced difficulties in maintaining social advancements, some of which have been reversed due to the growing inequality, which affects the most vulnerable groups. These groups include the indigenous peoples, immigrants, children who live or work on the street, Afro-descendants, and the disabled. There has been insufficient attention paid to inclusion, social mobility and equitable distribution of resources.

2. The multicultural society is in full demographic transition. Indigenous peoples represent 1.7 per cent of the population (63,876 people, 2000 census), consisting of 8 ethnic groups and register the lowest social development indicators. Afro-descendants constitute 1.9 per cent of the population (72,784 people) and have experienced more social mobility and integration.

3. Costa Rica continues to receive a large number of immigrants from Colombia, Nicaragua and Panama. Between 1984 and 2000, the number of resident Nicaraguans increased from 3.7 per cent to 7.8 per cent of the population, and in 2004, 18 per cent of births were to foreign mothers. Intensive immigration has impacted the country's demographics and demand on social services. Though immigrants make a contribution to the economy, most of them are poor and may have difficulty in accessing social services.

4. Despite economic growth, children have been negatively affected by social exclusion, weakened and insufficient social policies, unequal social investment, as well as problems with efficiency in providing services to reach all groups. Weaknesses of the National Integral Child Protection System (*Sistema Nacional de*

*Protección Integral, SNPI*), established in 1997, and in its implementation at the national, regional and local levels, are also challenges.

5. Children, especially those belonging to vulnerable groups, are more affected by economic, social and environmental hardships. Children also face higher risks due to a lack of protection from threats such as sexual exploitation, child labour, abuse, HIV/AIDS and child trafficking, among others. Key socialization areas for children — families, schools and communities — as well as some geographic regions and localities, have not always been able to serve as protective and positive learning environments.

6. From 2000 to 2005, social investment per capita declined from \$705 to \$685, and remains 20 per cent lower than at the end of the 1970s. Costa Rica also declined six places (to 48) in the Human Development Index. The country's unequal income distribution, measured by the Gini coefficient, has gone from 0.374 in 1997 to 0.422 in 2006.

7. The country's poverty rate has remained unchanged since 1994, at 20 per cent of households. Some 25 per cent of children live in poverty. In 2006, 5.3 per cent of households were extremely poor. The percentage of impoverished female-headed households increased from 33.5 per cent in 2005 to 36.2 per cent in 2006. Poverty is intensified in coastal, border and urban areas. A recent UNICEF and State of the Nation programme study estimates that the mean of impoverished households per canton is 33.3 per cent, with extremes ranging from 5 per cent to 68.6 per cent. Some 90 per cent of the indigenous population lives in poverty. On the other hand, the 2006-2010 National Development Plan proposes reducing poverty to 16 per cent and reducing regional disparities by the year 2010. This can carry the country towards a renewed social advancement, including development beyond Millennium Development Goals (Goals +).

8. Integrated early child development faces important challenges. Although Costa Rica achieved an IMR of 9.71 per 1,000 live births (2006), the rate must improve at the subnational level, where in some cantons (sub-provincial entities), the IMR is double the national average. Around 95 per cent of children aged 1-3 do not have access to day care and early stimulation services that would include parent education. While health care is comprehensive, it covers only 50 per cent of children aged 1-6. These challenges require the development of an integrated social policy for early childhood implementing actions to increase coverage of day-care services, to promote early stimulation and parenting capacities within the home and to re-establish nutritional monitoring systems.

9. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is growing among women and youth. In spite of low HIV/AIDS prevalence (0.3 per cent), the mortality rate gradually increased between 1990 and 2005. In 1992, the male-female ratio of HIV/AIDS cases was 12.9 to 1 while in 2005 it was 5.4 to 1, a change that indicates the epidemic's dramatic feminization. It is estimated that 40 per cent of cumulative AIDS cases over the last 10 years are among youth. To remedy these weaknesses, the country formed the National AIDS Commission, which requires further capacity-building. With support from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the 2006-2010 National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS was approved. To meet Millennium Development Goal 6, the country must improve HIV/AIDS prevention and reproductive health education.

10. Though Costa Rica sees education as the principal means to generate opportunities leading to an improved quality of life, social mobilization and development, not everyone enjoys equal education opportunities. The education system also faces problems in its quality (system-wide) and in secondary education coverage (three out of five adolescents are not enrolled in school). There are also difficulties in transitional phases (pre-school-to-primary, primary-to-secondary and the third-to-fourth grade), which exacerbate low performance, repetition, and exclusion. Education indicators in rural areas, in multi-grade schools and in indigenous territories are well below the national average. For example, the national average of years of education is 7.6, while the same average for the indigenous peoples living within their territories is only 3.4 years. The country has failed to back up its education vision with an integrated and inclusive national policy.

11. The Government has proposed an annual increase of 2.5 per cent in secondary education attendance in order to reach 89 per cent by 2015 (Goals +). To achieve this, the Government promotes the *Avancemos* (“Let’s advance”) programme, which provides conditional cash transfers (\$30 to \$100) for impoverished adolescents, affording them the opportunity to continue and graduate. This initiative seeks to break the poverty cycle and to decrease child and adolescent labour. The Government also promotes the programme *Etica, estética y ciudadanía* (“Ethics, aesthetics and citizenship”), which seeks to improve the quality and attractiveness of secondary education by assuring the completion of the 200-day school year, by providing teacher capacity-building and by strengthening arts, cultural and physical education within the curriculum.

12. Integrated child protection is a key challenge for Costa Rica. The country has ratified most international treaties, has made important progress in adopting a legal framework based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and has now signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Nevertheless, Costa Rica has not advanced sufficiently in preventing social violence, decreasing serious rights violations (commercial sexual exploitation, abuse, child labour and child trafficking, among others) and decreasing vulnerability to natural disasters. Early motherhood curtails education and other opportunities for adolescents (20 per cent of births are to mothers younger than 19), and their rights require protection.

13. Violence against women and children is a serious concern. From 2000 to 2001, reported cases of domestic violence and requests for protection increased by 25 per cent. In 2004, 21 per cent of all reported domestic violence cases involved children under 14. Although the country has recognized child commercial sexual exploitation as a problem, preventative measures and attention to victims’ rights have been insufficient.

14. Child labour persists as a rights violation. One of every 10 children (113,523) worked in 2002. Some 44 per cent of them were younger than 15 — despite a law banning labour of children under this age. About 51.7 per cent of child labourers work while in school. A total of 54,170 adolescents (27 per cent) neither studied nor worked in 2002. Another 44.1 per cent dropped out, increasing their social risks. Children from indigenous, impoverished and rural backgrounds are the most affected. Despite policies and programmes in place over the last 12 years, the situation has not improved.

15. Although sports, culture and recreation are essential to child and adolescent development, protection and the prevention of violence, the State has not succeeded in including these areas in its policies and what policies do exist are not integrated. There are also not enough programmes addressing these issues. Moreover, weaknesses persist in information and management, and in infrastructure and human resources capacity (only 14 per cent of all educational centres have physical education instructors). In 2004, the country designated merely 0.78 per cent of social investment to this area.

16. The Government's Development Plan, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child have made several suggestions for progress: strengthen the SNPI; overcome shortfalls in universal and targeted policies related to children; improve capacities of public institutions; generate knowledge and awareness on children's issues; promote greater citizen participation in demanding rights fulfilment; and incorporate non-discriminatory cultural practices and innovative strategies to overcome the reduction in international cooperation (which decreased by 18 per cent to Costa Rica between 1990 and 1999, against a global reduction of 5 per cent).

17. The cooperation programme proposes to strengthen national institutional capacities and those of various social actors in promoting protective environments and equal opportunities for all children.

## **Key results and lessons learned from previous cooperation, 2002-2007**

### **Key results**

18. Strategic information on children produced by UNICEF, in alliance with the country's most prestigious academic and research centres, allowed the Government to make informed policy decisions in strengthening children's programmes, and made it possible for both the State and the civil society to monitor the country's progress in fulfilling national and international commitments to children. For example, the regularly published "State of the Rights of Children in Costa Rica", as well as other reports, such as "Indigenous Children in Costa Rica: Their Right to Health and Education" and "Regional and Cantonal Gaps in Child Rights Fulfilment," not only influenced public policy but also encouraged the health services, local institutions and municipal governments, to better focus their attention on children. For example, the *Avancemos* programme used key information in identifying its target population during the pilot phase, and for the first time all 81 municipal governments in the country were able to track their progress in protecting child rights.

19. UNICEF technical assistance and advocacy facilitated the approval of, and the leveraging of resources for, the reform and the restructuring of the National Child Welfare Institute (*Patronato Nacional de la Infancia, PANI*). PANI's objective is to promote a new way of delivering services, based on care and prevention, which is to be used in 13 local offices and 2 new regional offices, gradually expanding to all regions. The strengthening of PANI is the first step in its becoming the leading authority on child rights and the linchpin for integrated child protection.

20. In 2003, at the Government's request, UNICEF designed an innovative strategy to strengthen the community base of the SNPI so as to increase violence prevention and social protection capacities throughout the country. The former and current Governments adopted the strategy, and for the first time the key counterparts, the National Department of Community Development and the National Confederation of Community Development, formally included child rights in their programming. Using this community-based strategy, the local Safeguard Committees (*Comités Tutelares*), which increased in number from 30 to 320, along with, 56 Local Protection Boards (*Juntas Locales de Protección*) and 1,500 trained community leaders, joined child protection. One of the biggest successes was the increase in coverage of programmes in early childhood, from 4.5 per cent in 2001 to around 13 per cent in 2003, as noted in the midterm review (MTR).

21. The project *Desafíos* ("Challenges"), promoted by UNICEF, the Social Development and Family Allowance Fund and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, has had an important impact on social investment by improving the evaluation practices for targeted programmes of the fund. As a result, the Government has improved the efficiency and equity of social investment. In addition, the Ministry of Planning adopted the UNICEF Costa Rica Info as a monitoring and evaluation instrument for its poverty reduction programmes, allowing for better-targeted social investment.

### **Lessons learned**

22. Evidence shows that in order to guarantee national child rights protection for all, the country needs an integrated, well-coordinated, participatory, decentralized and efficient SNPI. The country must also progress in linking universal and targeted policies and their implementation at the national, regional and local levels, as well as improve inter-institutional coordination and strengthen the community base (Safeguard Committees and Local Protection Boards). The State must also incorporate municipal governments in order to establish territorial responsibility in developing protective environments. Finally, key institutions, such as PANI, must be strengthened as a way to improve management and ensure a more efficient National Council of Children and Adolescents (*Consejo Nacional de la Niñez y la Adolescencia, CNNA*).

23. According to the MTR, between 2000 and 2004, UNICEF promoted a programme to increase the coverage of early childhood care. Although the initiative was successful, it was not fully institutionalized due to the lack of a State policy guaranteeing its sustainability. Now, the country needs a specific policy on early childhood care, improving programme quality, efficiency and impact, as well as community participation.

24. The country office, through the human rights approach, has made it possible to influence public policy and the design and execution of and investment in key children's programmes. The value of UNICEF cooperation was based on strategic knowledge production, follow-up on the application of international legal frameworks, first-class technical assistance, combining national knowledge with UNICEF international expertise, and the development of strategic alliances with other United Nations agencies and other allies. As noted in the MTR, such efforts need to be complemented by social mobilization to improve oversight and monitoring of children's rights.

## The country programme, 2008-2012

### Summary budget table

<i>Programmes</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Child development and quality education	1 275	800	2 075
Protective environments and effective social policies	1 275	1 200	2 475
Cross-cutting costs	450		450
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 000</b>	<b>2 000</b>	<b>5 000</b>

### Preparation process

25. The preparation of the country programme coincided with the development of the UNDAF. The consultation process involved a wide variety of Government and civil society representatives. The key political counterparts are Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Foreign Relations. The proposal was also presented before the CNNA, international financial institutions, private sector representatives and Ambassadors from the UNICEF Executive Board. Through meetings and workshops, UNICEF consulted traditional counterparts, Ministries, and community and civil society organizations.

### Goals, key results and strategy

26. The programme will support the country in implementing national and international agreements on children's rights, and in promoting protective environments and equal opportunities for all children. It will also promote the effective application of a legal framework, the improvement of public policy efficiency, the reduction of social disparities and widened citizen participation.

27. Based on the Government's Development Plan, the UNDAF and recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, with the goal of contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and UNICEF medium-term strategic plan, the country programme proposes the following objectives: (a) consolidate and strengthen the SNPI at the national, regional and local levels; (b) design and apply a long-term policy for children oriented towards early childhood care, emphasizing the most impoverished and excluded populations; (c) increase and improve social investment towards children; (d) increase the coverage, quality and relevance of public education; (e) strengthen public institutions impacting on the lives of children; and (f) promote citizen participation.

28. To impact critical situations affecting children, the country programme will support the Government in achieving the following results by 2012:

(a) 12 per cent coverage of children aged 2-7 receiving integrated early childhood care (nutrition, violence protection and early stimulation), emphasizing excluded families and groups;

(b) 140,000 impoverished and excluded adolescents receiving additional income (conditional cash transfers) in order to attend and complete secondary education and acquire life skills;

(c) 40 per cent of adolescents in higher-risk areas for HIV/AIDS with access to adolescent-friendly health and education services in HIV prevention;

(d) 50 per cent of all children, emphasizing areas with high child vulnerability, living in protective environments established by PANI, municipal Governments, Local Protection Boards, Safeguard Committees and Local Emergency Committees;

(e) The CNNA and its entities strengthened and with capacity in designing and implementing programmes in prevention and care, ensuring child rights, within the SNPI framework;

(f) Social investment directed towards children with a monitoring and evaluation system that allows for prioritizing and redistribution of resources with greater efficiency, effectiveness and equity.

29. The cooperation strategy proposes two components: (a) child development and quality education and; and (b) protective environments and effective social policies. To achieve the aforementioned results, strategic priority will be given to: (a) advocacy and alliances, as well as engagement with the private sector; (b) institutional capacity-building; (c) social communication for child rights; and (d) the mobilization and participation of children.

30. Advocacy, alliances and engagement with the private sector will promote further alliances and fund-raising by means of a strategic plan for mobilizing national and international donors and the private sector for generating other resources. In order to facilitate alliances with bilateral and international agencies and the private sector, there will be a close linkage with the programmatic results. UNICEF will work closely with other United Nations agencies within the UNDAF.

31. Institutional capacity-building will support public social institutions, including municipal governments and social organizations, in strengthening social management processes and especially planning, organizational programming, budgeting and information systems management, to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of children's programmes. This includes public policy, judicial and administrative procedures and supporting Government programmes. UNICEF will provide technical input and share its international knowledge and experience with partners.

32. Communication for child rights will support programme implementation with communication strategies placing children's issues in the national agenda, generating greater awareness and demand for child rights, promoting positive changes in attitudes and behaviour, and publicizing programme successes. This area will also support counterparts in social mobilization processes by designing mass media campaigns; by promoting alliances with the media, the training of journalists and public officials and monitoring of media coverage; as well as by producing and disseminating media and educational materials.

33. Social mobilization and participation will support Government institutions and social and community organizations in incorporating citizen participation, including that of children, in policies and programmes. This area will promote national

strategies in creating and sustaining local, regional and national networks of Safeguard Committees and Local Protection Boards. This subcomponent will build capacities in municipal governments and community organizations in child protection, promoting their greater involvement. Information and training will be provided to these actors for the monitoring of child rights fulfilment.

34. The cooperation programme will apply an inclusive approach and prioritize poverty and the reduction of disparities based on gender, ethnicity, nationality, disability and geographic area, among other factors. In addition, the programme will promote respect for diversity and support citizen-monitoring processes, moving from diagnostic and reporting processes to proposing solutions that will lead to the better formulation and implementation of children's programmes.

#### **Relationship to national priorities and the UNDAF**

35. The UNICEF programme aligns with UNDAF strategies and the Government's Development Plan, which promotes Costa Rica as a developed country by 2021 through the construction of a modern, inclusive and democratic society enjoying equal opportunities. The UNDAF introduces five strategic actions areas corresponding to the Government's priorities in the areas of social and economic policies, institutional reform and environmental sustainability: (a) inclusive, sustainable and equitable human development; (b) public policy; (c) citizen participation; (d) socio-cultural practices; and (e) environmental sustainability. The proposed programme is directly linked to interventions and strategies highlighted in the Government's social policies and other Government initiatives as noted throughout the Government's Development Plan.

#### **Relationship with international priorities**

36. In relation to the Millennium Declaration and its goals, the UNICEF Costa Rica programme incorporates the following priority areas: survival and early childhood care, education and gender equality, HIV/AIDS and protection, and the promotion of public policies in each of these areas. These areas are interlinked with Millennium Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, especially concerning excluded populations such as indigenous and Afro-descendants. The programme also takes into account the international call to action made by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the UNICEF role in middle-income countries, and emphasizes monitoring the fulfilment of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and of the goals of *A World Fit for Children*. Programme priorities are also in line with Costa Rica efforts to achieve Education for All goals and regional education commitments.

#### **Programme components**

37. The 2008-2012 country programme, "Protective environments and equal opportunities for all children", is organized into two components: (a) child development and quality education; and (b) protective environments and effective social policies.

38. The **child development and quality education** component has three subcomponents. The first, early child development, will support the Ministry of Health's Child Nutrition and Development programme by strengthening and

increasing the coverage and quality of day care, nutrition, psychosocial development and early stimulation programmes for children aged 2-7, as well as parenting capacities. It will also support the management, monitoring and evaluation of services provided by Nutrition and Child Development Centres, community homes and other care modalities. UNICEF, in coordination with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), families and communities, will contribute to developing and adopting equitable and non-discriminatory child development policies, allowing services to reach the most excluded populations.

39. UNICEF will work with partners to improve the targeting of beneficiaries and the sharing of cost-effective child development experiences in reaching excluded populations. The component will also promote behaviour change through the provision of knowledge and tools for families, guardians and communities on nutrition and psychosocial and intellectual stimulation. Within the alliance of the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF, along with the Secretariat of National Policies on Food and Nutrition, UNICEF will promote the creation of a national inter-institutional authority, with representatives from health, poverty and child care sectors, to implement the National Plan aiming towards the eradication of child malnutrition. This subcomponent will seek to re-establish the National Nutritional Monitoring System, allowing resources to reach moderately and severely malnourished populations more efficiently and equitably.

40. The second subcomponent, universal secondary education, will support the country in increasing its educational investment from 6 per cent to 8 per cent of the gross domestic product, with the goal of making secondary education universal and improving its quality and gender equality. This area seeks to help the most vulnerable adolescents to stay in school and to return if they have left. Promotion of life skills and holistic development will be a major strategy. Technical assistance will be provided to the Government and local organizations for improving primary education for excluded groups — disabled, immigrants, indigenous, Afro-descendants and refugees — emphasizing the transition periods of pre-school-to-primary level and primary-to-secondary level. In addition, UNICEF will encourage the education system to include the prevention of natural disasters and appropriate response.

41. UNICEF will support the initiatives, *Etica, estética y ciudadanía and Avancemos*. In the latter, UNICEF will help community organizations in identifying the adolescents in need of education services. Support will be given to research on education transitions and services for targeted populations. The cooperation will also help to bring innovations in education into the classroom and administration, along with the strengthening of other learning opportunities.

42. The third subcomponent, HIV/AIDS prevention, will strengthen the national response concerning prevention, support for women and youth, universal access to care, and prevention of vertical transmission. The subcomponent will support the Ministries of Health and Education in establishing friendly services that provide information and counselling on HIV/AIDS prevention. This will be done by training health care staff to eliminate discriminatory practices and by training teachers in providing appropriate information for adolescents and youth, focused on changing risky sexual behaviours and on self-help practices. UNICEF will provide the country with strategic information on ensuring broad coverage of cost-effective

preventative actions. The programme will advocate for the greater visibility of HIV/AIDS within the national agenda and for increasing the budget for prevention. Within the framework of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS' "Three Ones" and "Four Ps", UNICEF will contribute to the strengthening of the National AIDS Commission and to follow-up on the National Strategic Plan, the approval of the law on HIV/AIDS and the implementation of a monitoring and evaluation system. In addition, the office will support research on children affected by HIV, generating timely and accurate information on the epidemic to improve decision-making.

43. The second component, **protective environments and effective social policies**, has three subcomponents. The first, strengthening the SNPI, will assure the adequate functioning of the SNPI and its key actors: PANI, CNNA, Government institutions and social organizations, as well as Safeguard Committees and Local Protection Boards. Efforts will focus on the CNNA, building capacities in the design of national policies and programmes in prevention and care, and protection of child rights. UNICEF will support the creation of a national policy that guarantees the SNPI's effective functioning at the national, regional and local levels, so that institutions will incorporate human rights and results-based management approaches. UNICEF will help to build the Technical Secretariat's management capacities in following up on, monitoring and evaluating the CNNA's progress and will support knowledge-generation.

44. The second subcomponent, integrated social protection, covers two main areas: (a) support to universal social policy and prevention programmes involving education, culture, recreation and sports; and (b) targeted social policies and programmes that help to integrate universal programmes for impoverished and vulnerable children. For migrant groups, the subcomponent will promote the incorporation of bi-national approaches, especially in the Gnobe (indigenous) and Nicaraguan populations. For these groups, protection is emphasized by assuring their access to basic health, education and social security services, as well as non-discrimination and integration into Costa Rican society. UNICEF will promote, in alliance with the National Department of Community Development and the National Confederation of Community Development, a capacity-building strategy for the SNPI's community base by the conformation and sustainability of Safeguard Committees. In alliance with PANI, the cooperation will strengthen the Local Protection Boards and the implementation of the improved delivery of services. UNICEF will provide technical assistance and inputs (Costa Rica Info) to municipal governments for the incorporation of child protection within their annual operating plans, creating geographic zones of responsibility in protection. The subcomponent will encourage the development of "local protection systems", which under the concept of "protective environments" will prevent violations of child rights — those associated with abuse, sexual exploitation, child labour, adolescent pregnancy and discrimination, among others — at regional and cantonal levels and in communities. Continued support for the National Plan for Violence Prevention and Promotion of Social Peace is of particular importance in this subcomponent.

45. The third subcomponent, effective social policies and investment in children, will support the Ministry of Planning in monitoring and evaluating the Government's social objectives, strategic actions and goals, and in improving the efficiency and equity of national, regional and local social investment, as well as transparency and accountability. UNICEF will provide technical cooperation to

support results-based management incorporating a human rights-based approach. This will include means for quarterly follow-up of the annual operating plans and contributions towards achieving the midterm goals of the Government's Development Plan. The subcomponent will promote the creation of an evaluation network, as outlined with the Government, and will support evaluations for child programmes.

46. The entire country programme integrates a human rights-based approach and results-based management. In addition, there will be three cross-cutting issues: knowledge-generation, monitoring and evaluation, and gender mainstreaming.

47. Strategic knowledge-generation will be the foundation for public policy and programmatic decision-making, which will involve establishing baselines at the national and local levels, and for initiatives in communication, engagement with the private sector, and social mobilization. UNICEF will continue to serve as knowledge broker expanding its network of research and academic institutions.

48. Monitoring and evaluation will contribute to the programme at every level. At the national level, it will involve follow-up on the country's progress in achieving international and national goals for children.

49. Gender mainstreaming will highlight the different experiences and challenges faced by boys and girls in each subcomponent. In alliance with the National Women's Institute, the cooperation will generate statistical data focusing on gender, female participation, and programmes promoting the integral development of girls and women, emphasizing adolescent pregnancy prevention.

#### **Major partnerships**

50. At the national, regional and cantonal levels, UNICEF will cooperate with government institutions, NGOs, faith-based organizations and community structures, working to develop innovative, effective and sustainable interventions for child rights. The major Government partners are those assigned to UNICEF focus areas: the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Housing and the Social Sector, Ministry of Justice, PANI, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Economic Planning and Policy. At the regional and cantonal levels, UNICEF will concentrate efforts with municipal Governments, the National Department of Community Development, the National Confederation of Community Development, the National Commission on Emergency Prevention, and the National AIDS Commission. Strategic work will also be carried out with the most prestigious academic institutions in Costa Rica.

51. Within the UNDAF, UNICEF will strengthen coordination, collaboration and joint initiatives with United Nations agencies in various areas such as education, health, nutrition, immigration, and protection for refugees, among others. Examples of such collaboration include: WFP, the Pan American Health Organization and Inter-American Development Bank (on the Nutrition Action Plan); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (on poverty and inequality); the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (on youth, HIV/AIDS and reproductive health); UNESCO and the International Labour Organization (on education and child labour); the International Organization for Migration (on immigrants); and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (on refugees). Within the context

of the United Nations reform, UNICEF will promote joint programming to maximize resources and strengthen United Nations cooperation.

52. In addition, UNICEF will encourage alliances with diplomatic delegations, international financial institutions, the private sector and donors to promote horizontal cooperation and to increase access to human and financial resources. A focus will be on sharing successful experiences with neighbouring countries.

#### **Programme monitoring, evaluation and management**

53. This function will accord with the UNDAF, which includes annual planning processes, monitoring and evaluation in strategic country programme topics, and formal and periodic sessions to evaluate progress and difficulties and to take corrective measures. These UNDAF processes align with national Millennium Development Goals monitoring and evaluation, which are measured using Costa Rica Info (also used by UNDP). Emphasis will be placed on helping the Government to implement recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and additional efforts will be required for monitoring the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

54. Government counterparts for monitoring and evaluation will include the Ministry of Planning and related Ministries and national institutions and NGOs, all of which will closely coordinate with the Ministry of Foreign Relations. At the technical level, periodic work sessions will be held with country programme implementing counterparts, culminating in the Annual Evaluation Meeting. Programme monitoring will be guided by the key progress indicators related to each result.

---