Latin America and the Caribbean

The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region is composed of mostly middle income countries with varying levels of capacity for emergency preparedness and response, along with significant economic inequalities and recurrent natural disasters that undermine substantive development gains and contribute to persistent poverty among the most vulnerable. Recurrent hurricanes and tropical storms in the region increase the vulnerability of populations already living in fragile conditions. Floods strike every year, affecting nearly half a million persons in Bolivia, Paraguay, Central America and Haiti in 2014 alone, while prolonged droughts are affecting more than 2.5 million people in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador. Several disease epidemics affect the region: Chikungunya in the Caribbean islands has spread to other Central and South American countries with 729,178 cases reported and 113 deaths. Cholera, despite a significant reduction of the incidence, continues to represent a threat in Haiti, and efforts are still required for its elimination. In Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, the migrating children crises caused the repatriation of 12,000 children in 2014, mostly from Mexico. In Honduras, the Protection cluster has been activated under UNICEF leadership, due to protection needs there. In Colombia, despite the positive signs in the peace negotiations, the armed conflict continues to generate human rights violations against children. In these contexts, UNICEF LACRO plays a key role in preparedness, response, risk analysis, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and resilience building, providing technical assistance, oversight and capacity building to 24 country offices and governmental authorities to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacities. LACRO has also contributed to enhance the humanitarian action work in the region through active participation in coordination platforms such as Risk Emergency Disaster Working Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC) and Coalition of Children and Youth for Resilience in Latin America and the Caribbean (CORELAC).

Regional Office

2015 Planned Results: The LACRO 2015 Humanitarian Plan will aim to address humanitarian action—including preparedness, DRR and resilience—mainly through systematic identification of and support to key actions in programme sectors of the UNICEF Regional Office. The regional office will work with headquarters, country offices and partners on the development and implementation of risk analysis tools to be incorporated in vulnerability and equity analysis processes (e.g., situation analysis). The regional office and priority country offices with the highest risk profiles will be better prepared to face major emergencies in terms of staff knowledge and skills for effective response. While large scale emergencies are infrequent in the LAC region, LACRO will work to ensure capacity and readiness to support country offices and national authorities in each of the key programme sectors and areas of cluster responsibility. The minimum preparedness standards for the regional office and country offices will be defined based on LAC regional and country contexts. LACRO will ensure appropriate preparedness levels are established, and selected country offices with the highest risk profiles (approximately 12) will be supported to reach these standards through technical assistance in preparedness and response through preparedness planning, trainings and simulations. The role of UNICEF as convener and broker for South-South/horizontal cooperation will be continued and enhanced in order to facilitate knowledge-sharing and the signing of new cooperation agreements regarding humanitarian action, especially DRR, preparedness and response, all based on an analysis of gaps and capacities in these areas and regional priorities. This will include a map of the existing supply of and demand for technical expertise related to humanitarian action by governments. LACRO will assume a leading role, in coordination with OCHA and other humanitarian partners, to ensure that the proposed World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) regional consultation includes recommendations on the protection of children’s rights in each of the four themes, creating greater awareness, advocacy and networking on these themes in regional structures and in the International Mechanisms of Humanitarian Assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean (MIAH). UNICEF-led sectoral working groups (Education, WASH, Child Protection and Nutrition in emergency) will be strengthened by ensuring a link between global clusters and the groups at regional and national levels and by organizing trainings and workshops to introduce and adopt global humanitarian standards and tools at a national level. The regional office will continue working with key regional humanitarian partners to strengthen preparedness and DRR capacities at a regional and national level.

2014 Results: In 2014, LACRO appealed for US$3.5 million. As of end- November 2014, US$2,299,618 (66 per cent) of requirements was received in addition to the US$2,388,733 carried over from 2013. Among these funds available in 2014, US$1,078,008 was used by the regional office and US$3,610,343 by country offices, for both emergency response and preparedness actions. UNICEF LAC regional

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1 While using the middle income country designation, we note its failure to reflect the diversity of the countries to which it is applied and its tendency to obscure severe inequality and vulnerability within them.

2 WHO/PAHO, November 2014.

3 In 2014 there were 21,037 reported cases of cholera and 216 deaths from the disease (source: Haitian Ministry of Health, November 2014).

4 As of August 2014, 66,200 unaccompanied children from Central America had been detained in the US.

5 http://www.redhum.org/documento_detail/kingston-declaration-iv-miah-13836
efforts have focused on strengthening the country-level emergency preparedness and response capacity through support to UNICEF country offices, including a review of online Early Warning Early Action systems and support for joint inter-agency emergency simulations with World Food Programme (WFP) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). As the leader of the regional WASH LAC working group, LACRO and its partners organized a regional workshop on WASH cluster coordination definitions and responsibilities with participants from 11 countries. As a result, 11 national WASH-in-emergency platforms reviewed their work plans and committed to undertake concrete actions aimed at improving the coordination mechanisms among their members (UN Agencies, NGOs, National Governments). UNICEF organized an Education in Humanitarian Action training for UNICEF staff and partners and provided technical support to governments and other partners on acute malnutrition management, ensuring the harmonization of treatment protocols and the standardization of reporting and follow-up systems during emergencies. In May, UNICEF in partnership with CORELAC facilitated the participation of children and youth in the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Platform held in Guayaquil, Ecuador. For the first time, children’s opinions were incorporated into the final declaration of a DRR Regional Platform. UNICEF also promoted South-South/horizontal cooperation, facilitating technical visits by Brazilian officials to share their experience with Panama and Cuba in the national protocol for the protection of children and adolescents in disaster situations. At the country level, Barbados, Bolivia, Paraguay, Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, Haiti and Colombia have implemented several emergency response interventions in support of local government institutions in Education, Child protection, WASH and Nutrition6.

Barbados and East Caribbean

2015 Planned Results: In 2015, the country office will continue to improve its preparedness level to respond to any emergency with Early Warning Early Action system updating and risk assessment for the 12 countries. The key actions checklist will also be updated to ensure the office meets the minimum level of preparedness. Priority preparedness activities being implemented in the annual work plans have been identified for the various programme sectors. Funds requested for 2015 will be used to provide: (i) technical assistance in review of emergency response, lesson learning and capacity building in preparedness planning. In case of an emergency: (ii) psychosocial support for children affected by an emergency (ECG kits, recreational kits, tents); (iii) educational materials (School-in-a-box, school bags and tents) to ensure continued access to education. Main expected results are: (1) Increased country capacity and delivery of services to ensure girls and boys access to safe and secure forms of education and critical information for their own well-being in humanitarian situations. (2) Improved country capacity and national systems to promote resilience and strengthen response to humanitarian situations. (3) Increased country capacity and delivery of services to ensure that children’s rights to protection from violence, abuse and exploitation are sustained and promoted in humanitarian situations.

2014 Results: With US$138,579 of humanitarian funds available in 2014, the country office attended to an emergency caused by heavy rains and floods that affected Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) and St. Lucia (late December 2013). About 50 per cent of the population (50,000 persons) in SVG and communities in the south and east of St. Lucia were without pipe water supply and their drinking water source was compromised. The educational sector in the country was also affected by damage to schools and education materials as well as by the use of schools as shelters. The immediate response was to provide the affected communities in the two countries with WASH and Education and Child Protection supplies to improve the hygiene/health situation and minimize disruption in education7. UNICEF also initiated support to the governments to quickly roll out the psychosocial programme Return to Happiness that benefitted 2,897 children in 10 schools and 7 ECD centers. The emergency response stockpile was replenished8. The country office undertook a two-day emergency training and simulation with support from the regional office; the simulation highlighted some weaknesses at the national level in terms of response capacity, which have been addressed in 2014.

Bolivia

2015 Planned Results: Drought and floods are recurrent in Bolivia at various levels of intensity. In 2015, the country office will work in preparedness by strengthening capacities and humanitarian coordination, including information systems, through the sectoral working groups, partners and government institutions and in response to ongoing emergencies by focusing on Chaco and the Amazon regions. Main planned results are: (i) Education: 5,000 children and adolescents in initial and primary education will have access to and remain in school through the: (a) installation of school tents and the creation and provision of teaching materials, books and recreational materials in Spanish, and indigenous languages; and (b) provision of school transportation. (ii) Protection: psychosocial support to 5,000 vulnerable children and adolescents; prevention of child rights violations in temporary shelters and camps; promotion of overall enforcement of child rights in affected areas. (iii) Nutrition: improve nutritional status of 10,000 children under the age of five with special emphasis on those under the age of two and 3,000 pregnant and lactating women. (iv) WASH: ensure access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene through the provision of technical assistance and essential supplies, along with infrastructure in campsites and flooded communities for the most vulnerable population. Approximate number of beneficiaries: floods: 18,000 (m/f/f), 3,000 children; droughts: 40,000 (m/f), 13,000 children.

2014 Results: Floods in 2014 severely affected municipalities in the Amazon region of the Beni Department. This situation strongly impacted the daily life of children. During the response, UNICEF co-led WASH, Education and Protection clusters, supporting the lead of national and departmental governments. Response funds of US$864,953 were provided through Swiss cooperation and CERF, with an additional amount from BISA Bank thanks to an innovative partnership with the private sector. The response actions of the country office included: (i) Education: school tents, transport service and school bags distributed. (ii) ECD: comprehensive care in child-friendly spaces: ECD packages; training to parents and ECD kits distributed. (iii) Protection: 10 camps installed; 31 child-friendly spaces implemented (5,000 infants, children and adolescents provided with psychosocial support); Seven Children and Adolescent Defense Offices functioning and 12 Government children and adolescents rights protection institutions, with increased awareness on children rights in emergency; 2,030 children and adolescents received birth certificates and identity cards; 2,520 parents and community members and leaders were trained and sensitized on children and adolescents rights and protection in emergency. (iv) Nutrition: provision of complementary food and supplementary micronutrients for 1,000 children under age 2 for three months; 100 local health personnel and 2,000 women trained; four

6 See below CO chapters and in the separate Colombia and Haiti HAC chapters for details.
7 100 boxes of hand sanitizers; 390 Adult Hygiene Kits; 100 Infant Hygiene Kits; Supply for RTH kits; 3,650 Water Purification tablets; 115 boxes ORS, 8 Recreation Kits; 30 School-in-a-Box kits; 17 ECD kits.
8 500 hygiene kits; 80 boxes Water Purification Tablets; 200 boxes ORS; 30 School-in-a-box kits; 20 ECD kits; 15 recreation kits; 5 light weight tents; 200 school bags
spaces established for counseling on breastfeeding and nutrition promotion. (v) WASH: 3,345 families attended to in nine camps and six municipalities: water purification tablets and 3,293 ceramic filters given to families and schools plus regular water quality monitoring in camps and communities. Total project beneficiaries: 47,322 including 18,312 men, 21,656 women and 7,354 children under-5. Additionally, UNICEF concluded a drought-response intervention in the Chaco region in WASH and Nutrition sectors, funded with 2013 carry-over CERF funds (US$802,576) and reaching 25,232 people (including 3,400 children under-5) in WASH and 15,530 people (including 2,100 children under-5) in Nutrition.

**Dominican Republic**

2015 Planned Results: In 2015, the country office will continue to conduct capacity building actions to strengthen the preparedness level, both internally and with external partners and government institutions. In case of any emergency, the country office will support local government to ensure an effective response, particularly in the UNICEF led sectors. The following main results are planned: (i) Education national and local authorities will have improved their knowledge and capacities about Education and Protection in emergency situations. (ii) The WASH in emergency Platform (GASH) will have been supported in its capacity building and extension process. (iii) UNICEF will actively participate in HCT and its preparedness activities, as well as in the coordination of possible emergency response actions.

2014 Results: In 2014 the Dominican Republic did not face major emergencies——only a few minor floods attended by local government——consequently, the country office concentrated on preparedness actions: (i) The manuals and guidelines for the sectoral groups of the Emergency Operational Centre (COE) have been finalized with UNICEF support. (ii) The Ministry of Health and the Water and Sanitation Authority, with UNICEF support, participated in a regional workshop of the WASH National platforms organized by the regional coordination group WASH LAC (Guatemala, June 2014). (iii) The country office participated in a workshop organized by OCHA and HCT aimed at updating the HCT coordination mechanism (May 2014).

**Ecuador**

2015 Planned Results: In 2015, while working on improving internal preparedness to respond to any emergency situation in support to Government institutions, particularly in UNICEF-led or co-led sectors, the country office will continue to support national authorities working on sectoral emergency preparedness and DRR (including earthquakes, volcano eruptions, floods and epidemics), concentrating in the following actions: (i) Ministry of Education: implementation of EPR- and DRR-focused activities. (ii) Ministry of Social Inclusion (Child Protection) and Ministry of Health (Health and Nutrition) and other relevant ministries: integration of DRR in policies and sectoral action plans. (iii) WASH: preparedness and response to strengthen national capacity in assessment/evaluation and response planning. (iv) Health: support of Ministry of Health in Ebola (EVD) and Chikungunya national preparedness and response efforts. (v) Through UNCT and UNETT: definition of key inputs to national disaster management authorities, particularly inter-sectoral coordination and decentralization. (vi) UNICEF country office: staff training in EPR and CCCs in Humanitarian Action; prepositioning of emergency supplies to attend to 5,000 children in general emergency response.

2014 Results: In 2014 the country did not face any major emergency. UNICEF used funds allocated from internal resources and mobilized from other applicable funding sources to support policy development with national government partners and carry out the following actions in collaboration with implementing partners: Education sector: (i) Development of the Education Public Policy document aimed at reducing the risks of natural hazards in the education sector and ensuring continuity of education in time of emergencies; (ii) awareness-raising on DRR with schools and communities through the implementation of interactive play-areas called “Riesgolandia/Riesgollakta” reaching 250,000 students and adults; (iii) support to Ministry of Education (MoE) for the development and implementation of DRR tools within the education sector at community level and their dissemination at national level; (iv) support to the implementation of the MoE Emergency Operations Center with ICT equipment and furniture to strengthen the Early Warning System, sectoral coordination and information management; (v) provision of School-in-a-box kits for approximately 32,000 children and 800 teachers for MoE National Directorate of Risk Management. Health sector: (vi) support to the Ministry of Health in establishing EVD and Chikungunya preparedness plans in close coordination with PAHO-WHO.

**El Salvador**

2015 Planned Results: In 2015, the country office will continue to work to strengthen its capacity in preparedness and response to emergencies as well as government and partner capacities, particularly focusing on response to drought, flooding, earthquake and the return of migrating and unaccompanied children. Specific actions: (i) Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Health and National Council of Food and Nutrition Security (CONASAN) to monitor the nutritional status of children under the age of five at the community level: a tool for monitoring nutritional status with participation of local government to be approved by the Ministry of Health and the establishment of quarterly reporting on nutritional status disaggregated by municipality, age and sex. (ii) Update the country office protocols for response to different risk scenarios and link to the National Civil Protection System. (iii) Update risk maps, including identification of areas of major vulnerability. (iv) Supply pre-positioning plan established and functioning in coordination with national institutions; Education in Emergency platform. (v) Establish protocols for attention to unaccompanied girls and boys established, including involvement of local governments to monitor, protect and support the returned children. (vi) Establish protocols for attention and monitoring of returned childhood by both air and land.

2014 Results: With US$57,611 of humanitarian funds available in 2014, the country office attended to various emergency situations in close coordination with UN agencies, partners and government institutions. At the same time, the country office has worked in capacity development to improve the preparedness level for a coordinated response with government and partners. In response, the country office has developed the following actions: (i) Established an agreement with Government to support actions directed at children under two years of age who are undocumented, have migrated to the US, are located in countries of transit or destination, or are repatriated to El Salvador and have been received in the Integral Care Centre for Migrants of the Directorate General of Immigration. This included the delivery of 400 kits with age-appropriate food and non-food items. (ii) Formulated a multi-country project proposal for the Trust Fund for Human Security jointly with UNHCR, UNFPA, PAHO and UNDP (proposal not approved by donor). (iii) Formulated with PMA, PAHO and FAO a CERF proposal to address the coffee rust / food security emergency. Proposal presented to OCHA; comments received, but proposal was not approved.
Guatemala

2015 Planned Results: In 2015, the country office will continue working both in preparedness and capacity development actions with partners and government and on response to new and ongoing emergency situations (droughts, floods and migrating children crises). The country office will contribute to capacity strengthening through preparedness actions in WASH, Education, Nutrition and Child Protection in emergency, including the design and implementation of DRR plans, with the goal to increase the resilience of families and communities.

Advocacy activities will continue with partner government institutions for the inclusion of children’s rights in national risk management plans. The participation of children and adolescents will be promoted to help increase individual and community resilience capacity. Advocacy activities aimed at national and local government institutions will continue to promote the inclusion of children’s rights in policies, programmes and budget for DRR. The country office will support the strengthening of sectoral coordination mechanisms through the WASH, Education, Nutrition and Protection platforms in order to improve the preparedness level for effective emergency response. The country office, in close coordination with government institutions, will also contribute to strengthening the information management system in emergencies in order to improve access to information and response planning.

2014 Results: In 2014, the country office has responded to emergencies and developed several preparedness actions. Following a severe drought, 236,000 families lost part or all of their maize and bean crops. UNICEF, in coordination with other UN agencies, responded through CERF funds, including the Nutrition sector, with US$289,114. In August 2014, the Government declared a “state of public calamity” and UN agencies developed a long-term response plan for the prolonged heat wave (US$12.5 million). In response to the crisis of unaccompanied migrant children, UNICEF, along with other UN agencies, is assisting the Government to organize a response, which includes interagency coordination actions for child protection ranging from consular attention to reception of repatriated children. In preparedness, UNICEF, in coordination with other UN agencies and partner NGOs (HCT), organized and participated in two simulation exercises aimed at testing response protocols and analyzing gaps to be addressed with preparedness actions. A project has been carried out to strengthen resilience in 32 communities (16 municipalities) with an emphasis on preparedness for emergency response (Belgian cooperation initiative). Progress has been made both in the development of strategies for strengthening the coordination of emergency sectoral groups led by UNICEF and WFP and on defining Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between UNICEF and NGOs to improve response timing and effectiveness. In coordination with WFP, staff capacity has been strengthened in DRR and response, including logistics and communication in emergencies. UNICEF has actively participated with other UN agencies in the development of the Interagency Plan for Preparedness and Emergency Response led by UNETT.

Honduras

2015 Planned Results: In 2015, the country office will continue preparedness work to improve the coordinated response capacity with government and partners and will also ensure response actions in current and potential emergencies in UNICEF-led sectors. Activity in 2015 includes the following: (i) In the context of the migrant children crisis, trainings will be conducted to consular staff on child protection, human rights information and legal support for repatriated children and their families, including asylum procedures; (ii) An online information system will be developed allowing monitoring of the family and community reintegration process for repatriated children and their families, including the design of an early warning system on migration; (iii) Implementation of the second phase of the Return to Happiness methodology, covering 4,000 returnee children in 12 additional municipalities of two departments and reaching 100 per cent coverage of the municipalities with higher rates of irregular migration; (iv) In the drought emergency, the country office will support the Government with nutritional surveillance for early identification of acute malnutrition cases and provide nutritional care to nearly 5,000 families with children under the age of five years and pregnant and lactating women, while mobilizing funds to support 19,500 children at risk of malnutrition; (v) The country office will also support WASH interventions for approximately 22,000 people in poor rural communities affected by drought; (vi) In coordination with WHO/PAHO, national efforts will be supported in preparedness and response in the event of a Chikungunya epidemic or the appearance of the Ebola virus.

2014 Results: In 2014, the country office has worked intensively to both ensure an effective response to different emergencies affecting Honduras in the sectors led by UNICEF and in preparedness actions to improve emergency response capacities in coordination with Government and partners. In terms of the drought emergency, and in close collaboration with WFP and the Ministry of Health, UNICEF has supported an assessment of the effects of limited access to food on the nutritional status of children under the age of five years in the most affected municipalities. The result is that the percentage of children with acute malnutrition is 3.4 per cent (5.6 per cent girls), while the national average is 1.4 per cent. Two interventions financed with CERF funds have been implemented: the prevention of acute and severe malnutrition for approximately 7,300 people (pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years under nutritional surveillance: costing US$43,667) and response to drought in the WASH sector (costing US$295,359). In the migrant children crisis, with the formal activation of the protection cluster and with UNICEF designated as cluster lead, the development of a rights-based protocol for comprehensive care and protection of repatriated children has been facilitated, including family reunification, and medical and psychological care. A methodological guide has been developed for the organization of friendly spaces for repatriated children, and a communication strategy has been designed to help prevent risks related to irregular child migration and raise awareness for receiving the returnees with dignity. Psychosocial support actions for repatriated children and adolescents have been implemented through the Return to Happiness methodology, reaching 5,374 children from 103 communities of eight municipalities and five departments with higher rates of irregular migration.

Jamaica

2015 Planned Results: In 2015, the country office plans to work actively in coordination with UN and other partners including Government, to reach the following results: (i) Better coordination and stronger engagement of HCT leadership in preparedness and response. (ii) Enhanced preparedness for cluster coordination in the areas of WASH, Education and Nutrition in emergency. (iii) Capacity strengthening to enable UNICEF and partners to make solid contributions to the implementation of MIRA (Multi cluster/sector Initial Rapid Assessment) in possible large sudden onset emergency, all in the best interests of children and their families.

2014 Results: No major humanitarian responses occurred in 2014. The Humanitarian action work of the country office has concentrated on preparedness, which has included planning and coordination with humanitarian partners to build the HCT Contingency plan and to transition from UN Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) to the HCT coordination scheme; and increased coordination among UN agencies with RC leadership and Government participation. Strengthening this co-leadership is part of the work plan for 2015.
Mexico

2015 Planned Results: In 2015, the country office, besides ensuring a timely and effective response to eventual emergencies in support to the Government, will work on different actions aimed at improving its preparedness level and the inclusion of DRR and resilience in the regular program: (i) Incorporation of risk analysis in situation analysis and DRR / resilience in programme planning with regional office support. (ii) Organization of an emergency simulation. (iii) Establishment / update of emergency communication and fundraising plans. (iv) Signature of MoU with National Civil Protection agency, including specific cooperation in areas of standards, coordination, training and supplies. (v) Roll-out of psychosocial support training and school emergency plans. (vi) Development of special module on psychosocial support to children involved in migration crises.

2014 Results: In 2014, the country office has developed several preparedness and capacity building actions in support of the national and states system, particularly in Education and Child protection in emergency. In addition, UNICEF intervened in response to an emergency situation with US$300,000 of carry over funds from 2013. The following actions and results have been achieved: In response: (i) Back to school and psychosocial support interventions for 8,000 and 4,500 children respectively in Baja California and Sinaloa in the wake of September Hurricane Odile. Distribution of 300 School-in-a-box kits, 45 recreation kits and 45 psychosocial support kits. In preparedness: (ii) Participative Community risk analysis and emergency preparedness through support to Emergency Plans for 40 schools in communities at risk of natural disasters in rural areas in Oaxaca and Guerrero State involving 1,500 primary school children. (iii) Piloting on-line and face-to-face diploma in psychosocial support to children in emergencies with Chiapas, Oaxaca, Yucatan, Tabasco and Sonora states and roll-out with Tamaulipas, Tabasco and Oaxaca states. (iv) Participation in first National Civil Protection Congress, bringing together State Governors, Federal Ministries and President. UNICEF workshop with Chiefs of Civil Protection in 32 states to promote priority and differentiated attention to children in emergencies. (v) Negotiation of MoU with Civil Protection at National level for cooperation in standards, coordination, training and supplies. (vi) Staff from National Civil Protection and Social Welfare agencies trained in Child Protection in Emergencies, Managua October 2014.

Nicaragua

2015 Planned Results: For 2015, the country office is planning to continue capacity strengthening in emergency preparedness and response in coordination with HCT partners, both by supporting government institutions in responding to recurrent emergencies and by being better prepared to respond to a potential major emergency. The following results have been planned: (i) 100 per cent of UNICEF staff trained on CCCCs, HPM and PATH (Principle Approach to Humanitarian Action); (ii) One long-term Standby Agreement signed with BUSF NGO (Firemen/Firewomen without Borders) for emergency response; (iii) Three clusters operational with active UNICEF participation/leadership: WASH, Education and Protection.

2014 Results: With US$138,579 of humanitarian funds available in 2014, the country office has achieved important results in preparedness, capacity building and partnership for humanitarian action, including an innovation component; they include: (i) Capacity building of UNICEF staff members on emergency response including a simulation facilitated by UNICEF LAC Regional Office, WFP and OCHA; (ii) Partnerships for preparedness: a mapping of potential partners active in emergency and risk management conducted in the two Atlantic Coast Autonomous Regions with high vulnerability to natural disasters; capacity gaps of partners identified. Three workshops were organized on “Management, Information and Communication in Emergencies” with participation of 60 journalists; (iii) Preparedness and Capacity building: a project with BUSF NGO (Firemen/Firewomen without Borders) on risk management and emergency preparedness implemented in two Atlantic Autonomous Regions, including: a workshop on Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) with an emphasis on WASH involving 21 technical staff from the public sector (regional and municipal damage assessment teams); a Risk Management workshop with 35 youth to develop their capacity as members of the Municipality Emergency Response Brigade; (iv) Documentation of experiences and good practices on risk management and emergency preparedness with children and adolescents.

Paraguay

2015 Planned Results: The country suffers recurrent droughts and floods, particularly in the Chaco region, with long drought periods (6 to 9 months) alternating with periods of heavy rains, causing flooding and affecting the livelihoods of the population and the school life of children and adolescents. The native indigenous population is the most affected and vulnerable. In this context, in 2015, the country office will implement the following preparedness and response actions in Education, Child Protection and WASH: (i) Strengthen the local authority capacity to coordinate emergency response plans and implement risk management activities. (ii) Strengthen the capacity of teachers to implement the curriculum adapted to emergency situations and to support building resilience in children. (iii) Support local authorities to ensure the immediate return to classes and the organization of safe spaces for children after emergencies. (iv) Rehabilitate and construct community rainwater harvesting systems and sanitation facilities. (v) Distribute ceramic filters to improve water quality in schools.

2014 Results: In June 2014, Paraguay suffered floods of great magnitude, affecting 250,000 people in nine departments out of 17, particularly on the banks of the Rio Paraguay. The state of emergency remains as new floods are expected for late November (El Niño phenomenon). UNICEF has responded with CERF funds (US$208,295) in coordination with Ministry of Education, Secretary of National Emergency and Secretariat of Children and Adolescents and implemented from June to November the following response actions: (i) Psychosocial and protection assistance to 2,000 children and adolescents in 20 temporary camps for displaced persons organized in the capital city (ADRA and CDI as implementing partners). (ii) Installation of 20 school tents for mobile classrooms. (iii) Training to 400 teachers of the affected schools about didactics in emergency situations. The Government, with support from the HCT, UN and NGOs, has demonstrated a satisfactory level of response coordination. Several sectoral working groups for preparedness and response have been established with the active participation of UNICEF in WASH, Education and Protection in emergency sectors.

Peru

2015 Planned Results: In 2015, besides responding with support to the Government in any emergency situation that may occur, the country office will continue working in advocacy and capacity building for government institutions at all levels and partner organizations to improve preparedness, DRR and resilience plans and policies. Main planned actions are: (i) Advocacy with government institutions for the inclusion of children’s rights focus in the National Risk Management Plans and the promotion of children and adolescent resilience through
capacity strengthening of national, regional and local governments and other public and private institutions. (ii) Advocacy with government institutions for the inclusion of children’s rights focus in the definition of policies and budget of the National Risk Management. (iii) Contribution to the strengthening of sectoral coordination mechanisms involving government institutions, UN agencies and NGOs to ensure an effective and timely response to any emergency situation, including possible L2 and L3.

2014 Results: With US$219,984 of humanitarian funds available in 2014, the country did not face large-scale emergencies and UNICEF achieved important results in resilience building, preparedness and DRR at the sectoral and inter-sectoral level. Main results are: (i) Supported the resilience building process in 117 communities and technical teams of 22 local governments and seven regional governments that have improved their preparedness level to respond to emergency situations (Belgian cooperation initiative). (ii) Through a UN mission with the participation of UNICEF, the Analysis of the Implementation of the Disaster Risk Management in Peru has been carried out, identifying strengths and recommendations for the implementation of national policies under the National System of Civil Protection and Risk Management law (SINAGERD) (iii) In a coordinated effort between UNICEF, WFP and FAO, the Nutrition in emergency thematic platform was created along with an inter-cluster coordination group involving UN and other international aid agencies.

Funding Requirements
UNICEF is requesting a total of US$5.7 million. The LAC Regional Office is requesting US$1.4 million for 2015 to continue strengthening the capacity of country offices in preparedness, response, disaster risk reduction, resilience building, and risk analysis, and in facilitating South-South cooperation and private sector partnerships in the areas in which UNICEF has a global sector/cluster responsibility. This will include direct involvement of the regional office in specific preparedness and response actions such as: technical assistance in support to country offices in emergency preparedness and response, regional emergency HR roster for surge and stand-by capacity and supply stockpiling / replenishment. Activities will be undertaken in coordination with regional REDLAC partners (UN agencies, NGOs and donors), HCTs and national and sub-regional actors where possible.

In addition to the budget at the regional level for preparedness and specific response actions of the prioritized country offices, and based on previous experience, LACRO is budgeting US$4.3 million to strengthen preparedness and respond to emergency situations at the national level.

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<tr>
<th>Country Offices</th>
<th>2015 Requirements (US$)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Barbados and East Caribbean</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>800,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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