



**Executive Board of the  
United Nations Development  
Programme and of the  
United Nations Population Fund**

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**UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND**

**Final country programme document for Ecuador**

Proposed indicative UNFPA assistance: \$10 million: \$5 million from regular resources and \$5 million through co-financing modalities and/or other, including regular, resources

Programme period: Five years (2010-2014)

Cycle of assistance: Fifth

Category per decision 2007/42: B

Proposed indicative assistance by core programme area (in millions of \$):

	Regular resources	Other	Total
Reproductive health and rights	2.4	3.5	5.9
Population and development	1.2	1.0	2.2
Gender equality	0.7	0.5	1.2
Programme coordination and assistance	0.7	-	0.7
Total	5.0	5.0	10.0

## **I. Situation analysis**

1. According to the 2001 census, the population of Ecuador is 12.1 million. The population growth rate in urban areas is four times higher than in rural areas. Urban residents account for 64 per cent of the total population.

2. The Government, which assumed office in January 2007, is implementing a national development plan that seeks to increase life expectancy through strategic interventions related to sexual and reproductive health. Government goals include decreasing adolescent pregnancies by 25 per cent, and decreasing the maternal mortality ratio by 30 per cent, particularly among poor and indigenous women living in rural areas. In 2006, the maternal mortality ratio was 53 deaths per 100,000 live births.

3. The national constitution, approved in September 2008, takes a human rights-based approach. It highlights the importance of promoting gender equality, reproductive rights, youth and adolescent rights, and culturally sensitive and participatory approaches to development. These approaches provide a strategic framework for UNFPA-assisted interventions.

4. According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the poverty rate declined from 49 per cent in 2000 to 45.2 per cent in 2006. Nevertheless, 85 per cent of the rural population is poor. Poverty rates are even higher among indigenous persons (96 per cent) and Ecuadorians of African descent (87 per cent).

5. Demographic trends include: (a) the increased percentage of young people between the ages of 15 and 29, who represent nearly 30 per cent of the total population; (b) a total fertility rate (3.3 children per woman) that contrasts with the desired number of children (2.6) and the total fertility rate for poor women (5.1 children per woman); (c) changes in mortality patterns, with substantive gains in life expectancy for both men (72.1 years) and women (78 years); and (d) an increase in emigration from Ecuador that corresponds to 5 per cent of the total population during the last five years.

6. HIV and AIDS are concentrated among vulnerable populations, with 96.9 per cent of the cases sexually transmitted. Cases of HIV infection among women and among youth aged 15 to 29 are increasing.

## **II. Past cooperation and lessons learned**

7. The fourth country programme was approved for a period of six years (2004-2009). The programme was aligned with national priorities that highlighted the importance of addressing disparities between ethnic groups, age groups and genders in order to achieve social and economic development.

8. An important lesson learned was that strategic partnerships among the Government, civil society organizations, United Nations organizations, other partner organizations and the donor community helped to advance the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). This agenda is reflected in the new national constitution and the national health code.

9. UNFPA contributed to the development of public policies and programmes related to maternal mortality, adolescent pregnancy and HIV prevention.

10. In the area of population and development, UNFPA contributed to: (a) the national development plan (2007-2010), promoting the use of demographic information in public policies; (b) the 2004 demographic and maternal and child health survey; (c) the development of Millennium Development Goal indicators; and (d) the development of database information systems to monitor the rights of youth and indigenous people.

11. In the area of gender equality, UNFPA strengthened women's networks, youth networks and networks for indigenous women. These networks helped to improve strategies that incorporate gender, cultural and youth concerns into public policies and programmes.

12. UNFPA mobilized resources to support the Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund established by UNDP and the Government of Spain, as well as the reproductive health commodity security initiative.

### III. Proposed programme

13. UNFPA and the Government developed the proposed programme in consultation with civil society and donors. The programme is aligned with national priorities, as reflected in the 2008 constitution and the national development plan. It is guided by the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the Programme of Action of the ICPD, the Millennium Development Goals and the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011.

14. In line with United Nations reform, UNFPA will support national priorities,

especially in the areas of HIV/AIDS response, emergency response, humanitarian operations, and developing and implementing joint programmes.

#### *Reproductive health and rights component*

15. This component contributes to the UNDAF outcome related to strengthening the management of the national health system in order to increase the demand for, and improve access to, sexual and reproductive health services, emphasizing equity, quality, cultural sensitivity, women, adolescents and youth.

16. Output 1: National strategic plans and multisectoral, comprehensive local health plans incorporate sexual and reproductive health and rights, to prevent maternal mortality and morbidity, adolescent pregnancy, gender-based violence, and HIV and AIDS in selected geographical areas. The programme will: (a) support the Ministry of Health and the National Health Council to strengthen their role in transforming the health sector, including reproductive health; (b) strengthen provincial-level and local-level health councils to formulate, implement, coordinate and monitor multisectoral, comprehensive local health plans; and (c) strengthen civil society entities and local accountability mechanisms to promote reproductive health and rights.

17. Output 2: Improved demand for services and improved capacity of provincial networks of the national health system to offer comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, including obstetric care, family planning, and services to prevent HIV/AIDS and adolescent pregnancy, as well as services to prevent and treat gender-based violence, in selected geographical areas. The programme will:

(a) strengthen local health networks to deliver a reproductive health services package; (b) strengthen national and local capacity in reproductive health to revise and implement sexual and reproductive health norms; (c) strengthen the national reproductive health commodity security strategy; and (d) strengthen and promote community demand for high-quality sexual and reproductive health services.

18. Output 3: Intercultural sexual and reproductive health policies and programmes are implemented to improve the access of indigenous people and Ecuadorians of African descent to health services in selected geographical areas. The programme will: (a) support the development of conceptual reproductive health frameworks aligned with public policies and programmes; and (b) put in place and expand programmes in reproductive health and rights for indigenous people and Ecuadorians of African descent, by supporting the institutionalization of such programmes in the Ministry of Health and in public policies.

19. Output 4: The educational community, including teachers and students, has access to comprehensive sex education that includes components on preventing HIV/AIDS, adolescent pregnancy, and gender-based violence. The programme will: (a) reinforce the Ministry of Education and institutional and intersectoral networks in implementing curricula on sexual and reproductive health and life skills.

#### *Population and development component*

20. This component contributes to the UNDAF outcome related to strengthening the national planning system through training, and through the availability of

social and demographic information and systems to formulate, implement, monitor and evaluate public policies.

21. Output 1: National capacity is increased in the analysis of population dynamics and its use in the national development plan and in national and local planning frameworks. The programme will: (a) include demographic dynamics in government training programmes led by the national planning secretariat; (b) strengthen the capacity of universities and networks on population and development to analyse and use information in public policies; and (c) build capacity in planning and population dynamics at national and local levels.

22. Output 2: National capacity is increased to produce, use and disseminate disaggregated sociodemographic information to formulate, monitor and evaluate public policies at national and local levels. The programme will: (a) support the 2011 population and housing census, including data desegregation by ethnicity, sex and age; (b) strengthen the national information system to improve public policies; and (c) support operational research on population issues, such as migration.

23. Output 3: Government officials guarantee youth the exercise, protection and promotion of their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the prevention of gender-based violence within the context of mobile and displaced populations in selected geographical areas along the northern border. The programme will: (a) support the availability of population information on mobile and displaced populations; (b) strengthen the capacity of local governmental institutions in sexual and reproductive health and rights, population dynamics, and gender; and (c)

support youth networks and civil society organizations in addressing sexual and reproductive health needs, including the need for information, counselling and services for the victims of gender-based violence.

#### *Gender equality component*

24. This component contributes to the UNDAF outcome related to building the capacity of authorities, national civil servants, and civil society to improve knowledge and develop skills to implement public policies according to international standards.

25. Output 1: Gender equality, women's, adolescent and youth rights, and reproductive health rights are incorporated in national laws, policies and plans, using a culturally sensitive approach, in selected geographical areas. The programme will: (a) strengthen the capacity of government institutions to formulate and implement policies and programmes, with an emphasis on gender equality and the prevention and treatment of gender-based violence, taking into account cultural sensitivities; and (b) advocate the generation of information and evidence on gender-based violence in order to formulate, implement and monitor public policies.

26. Output 2: Improved knowledge of gender equality and gender-based violence and improved implementation of measures to address these concerns within the Government, especially in the judiciary sector, the National Assembly, the police and the armed forces. The programme will: (a) strengthen the capacity of specialized institutions dealing with gender-based violence; and (b) carry out training programmes on preventing and treating gender-based violence in such institutions.

27. Output 3: The capacity of women, including indigenous women and those of African descent, communities and youth networks is strengthened in the promotion of, demand for and surveillance of sexual and reproductive health and rights. The programme will: (a) support networking among women, indigenous women, women of African descent, and youth; (b) build the capacity to incorporate gender-based violence issues in the agendas of organizations for indigenous women, women of African descent, and youth; and (c) institutionalize good practices and lessons learned at local and national levels.

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

28. The proposed programme will be nationally executed through governmental and non-governmental institutions, in coordination with the National Planning Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

29. UNFPA and the Government will monitor and evaluate programme implementation in accordance with established UNFPA guidelines and procedures, using results-based management and accountability frameworks. The UNFPA country office, in coordination with executing and implementing partners, will be responsible for overall monitoring and evaluation.

30. The UNFPA country office includes a representative, two assistant representatives and administrative support staff, in conformity with the country office typology. The Latin America and the Caribbean regional office in Panama will provide programme and technical support.

## RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK FOR ECUADOR

<p><b>National priority:</b> (a) improve national capacity and empower citizens; (b) increase life expectancy and the quality of life of the population; (c) reduce maternal mortality; (d) decrease pregnancies among adolescents; (e) increase the access of women to health services; (f) reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS; (g) promote gender equality and the empowerment of women; (h) prioritize issues that concern women, adolescents and youth groups; and (i) the national strategic development plan, at a national and local levels, considers population dynamics and the characteristics of social groups</p> <p><b>UNDAF outcomes:</b> by 2014, (a) the national health system guarantees the right to health, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable groups, health promotion, and universal access to high-quality public services, using gender, generational and culturally sensitive approaches; (b) the Government applies decentralized local development policies that ensure gender equity; (c) civil servants promote national and human rights, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable groups; and (d) civil society knows, demands and exercises its rights</p>				
Programme component	Country programme outcomes, indicators, baselines and targets	Country programme outputs, indicators, baselines and targets	Partners	Indicative resources by programme component
Reproductive health and rights	<p><b>Outcome :</b> The national health system has strengthened management in order to increase the demand for, and improve access to, sexual and reproductive health services, emphasizing equity, quality, cultural sensitivity, women, adolescents and young people</p> <p><b>Outcome indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reduced adolescent pregnancy rate</li> <li>● Reduced maternal mortality ratio</li> <li>● Increased modern contraceptive prevalence rate</li> <li>● Reduced HIV prevalence rate</li> </ul>	<p><b>Output 1:</b> National strategic plans and multisectoral, comprehensive local health plans incorporate sexual and reproductive health and rights, to prevent maternal mortality and morbidity, adolescent pregnancy, gender-based violence, and HIV and AIDS in selected geographical areas</p> <p><b>Output indicator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Percentage of local health council plans that include reproductive health and rights components</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 2:</b> Improved demand for services and improved capacity of provincial networks in the national health system to offer comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, including obstetric care, family planning, and services to prevent HIV/AIDS and adolescent pregnancy, as well as services to prevent and treat gender-based violence, in selected geographical areas</p> <p><b>Output indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Percentage of provincial networks that have developed reproductive health referral systems</li> <li>● Percentage of Ministry of Health units that offer at least three of the following reproductive health services in selected geographical areas: obstetric care, family planning, adolescent pregnancy prevention, HIV/AIDS prevention, and gender-based violence prevention and treatment</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 3:</b> Intercultural sexual and reproductive health policies and programmes are implemented to improve the access of indigenous people and Ecuadorians of African descent to health services in selected geographical areas</p> <p><b>Output indicator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number of intercultural reproductive health models implemented and evaluated in selected geographical areas</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 4:</b> The educational community, including teachers and students, has access to comprehensive sex education that includes components on preventing HIV/AIDS, adolescent pregnancy, and gender-based violence</p> <p><b>Output indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Percentage of Ministry of Education schools (from 8<sup>th</sup> grade) in selected geographical areas that use the sex education curricula and package</li> <li>● Number of Ministry of Education teachers in selected geographical areas who are knowledgeable about sex education and who teach it</li> <li>● Number of students (from 8<sup>th</sup> grade) who have been taught at least three components of the sex education curricula: the prevention of adolescent pregnancy; the prevention of HIV/AIDS; and the prevention of gender-based violence</li> </ul>	<p>Local governments; National Health Council; Ministries of: Economic and Social Inclusion; Education; Health</p> <p>Inter-agency support committee; non-governmental organizations (NGOs); youth organizations</p>	\$5.9 million (\$2.4 million from regular resources and \$3.5 million from other resources)

Programme component	Country programme outcomes, indicators, baselines and targets	Country programme outputs, indicators, baselines and targets	Partners	Indicative resources by programme component
Population and development	<p><b>Outcome:</b> The national planning system is strengthened through training, and through the availability of social and demographic information and systems to formulate, implement, monitor and evaluate public policies</p> <p><b>Outcome indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National planning system incorporates population dynamics and ICPD principles</li> <li>• Availability of data related to the ICPD, such as household surveys and censuses</li> <li>• Data disaggregated by gender, ethnicity and age used in national planning processes and local decision-making</li> </ul>	<p><b>Output 1:</b> National capacity is increased in the analysis of population dynamics and its use in the national development plan and in national and local planning frameworks</p> <p><b>Output indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of national and local development plans that include population dynamics, reproductive health, HIV, gender equity, ethnicity and employment generation</li> <li>• Number of academic networks and planning entities that include content on population and demographic variables in their agendas</li> <li>• Number of population and development operational research studies serving as inputs to public policy</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 2:</b> National capacity is increased to produce, use and disseminate disaggregated sociodemographic information to formulate, monitor and evaluate public policies at national and local levels</p> <p><b>Output indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of methodologies designed to harmonize the population and housing census and other sources of information to disaggregate data by ethnicity, gender and age</li> <li>• Number of civil servants and technicians, at national and local levels, using updated information systems for national and local planning</li> <li>• One information channel is developed and implemented among central and local planning agencies and civil society in selected geographical areas</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 3:</b> Government officials guarantee youth the exercise, protection and promotion of their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the prevention of gender-based violence within the context of mobile and displaced populations in selected geographical areas along the northern border</p> <p><b>Output indicator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of programmes that include care, protection, the promotion of the sexual and reproductive rights of youth, and the needs of youth, within the context of mobile and displaced populations in selected areas along the northern border</li> </ul>	<p>Ecuadorian Municipalities Association; coordination ministries; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Plan Ecuador; National Institute of Statistics and Censuses; National Secretariat of Planning and Development; National Secretariat for Migration; National Women's Council</p> <p>Civil society; NGOs; universities</p>	<p>\$2.2 million (\$1.2 million from regular resources and \$1 million from other resources)</p>
Gender equality	<p><b>Outcome:</b> Authorities, national civil servants and civil society improve their knowledge and develop their skills to implement public policies according to international standards</p> <p><b>Outcome indicator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of sexual and reproductive rights public policies formulated</li> </ul>	<p><b>Output 1:</b> Gender equality, women's, adolescent and youth rights, and reproductive health rights are incorporated in national laws, policies and plans, using a culturally sensitive approach, in selected geographical areas</p> <p><b>Output indicator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of culturally sensitive bills, laws, programmes and plans, at national and local levels, that include gender equality, sexual and reproductive rights, and the prevention and treatment of gender-based violence</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 2:</b> Improved knowledge of gender equality and gender-based violence and improved implementation of measures to address these concerns within the Government, especially in the judiciary sector, the National Assembly, the police and the armed forces</p> <p><b>Output indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One training programme designed and implemented to prevent gender-based violence</li> <li>• Number of specialized care protocols developed to prevent and treat gender-based violence</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 3:</b> The capacity of women, including indigenous women and those of African descent, communities and youth networks is strengthened in the promotion of, demand for and surveillance of sexual and reproductive health and rights</p> <p><b>Output indicator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of women's, youth and community organizations and networks that promote and defend sexual and reproductive rights in selected geographical areas</li> </ul>	<p>Armed Forces; National Assembly; national police; National Women's Council; Ministries of Government and Police; Economic and Social Inclusion; Education; Health; Justice</p> <p>Community organizations; youth organizations</p>	<p>\$1.2 million (\$0.7 million from regular resources and \$0.5 million from other resources)</p> <hr/> <p>Total for programme coordination and assistance: \$0.7 million from regular resources</p>