



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

Distr.: General
9 October 2006

Original: English

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Country programme for Honduras

Proposed UNFPA assistance: \$12.5 million: \$6 million from regular resources and \$6.5 million through co-financing modalities and/or other, including regular, resources

Programme period: 5 years (2007-2011)

Cycle of assistance: Sixth

Category per decision 2005/13: B

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

	Regular resources	Other	Total
Reproductive health	3.00	3.5	6.50
Gender	1.00	1.5	2.50
Population and development	1.25	1.5	2.75
Programme coordination and assistance	0.75	-	0.75
Total	6.00	6.5	12.50

I. Situation analysis

1. Honduras is a lower middle-income country with a per capita gross national product of \$1,030 (2004). Despite moderate economic growth, poverty and inequality are pervasive. Nearly 65 per cent of households live below the poverty line, and 47 per cent live in extreme poverty. Among rural and indigenous populations, the extreme poverty is as high as 64 per cent.

2. The population of Honduras was 7.1 million in 2005. Over 60 per cent of Hondurans are younger than 25. The annual population growth rate declined from 3.1 per cent in 1988 to 2.6 per cent in 2001, and the total fertility rate declined from 4.9 children per woman in 1995 to the current rate of 3.5 children per woman. Fertility has not declined in the 15- to 19-year-old age group. According to the 2003 national Millennium Development Goal report, the country faces major challenges in achieving targets related to poverty, hunger, child mortality, HIV/AIDS, maternal health and the environment. Although gender differentials in school enrolment rates have been eliminated, obstacles to gender equality and the empowerment of women are widespread.

3. Honduras has the highest number of registered HIV/AIDS cases in Central America. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) estimates that 70,000 people in the country are living with HIV and AIDS, with the majority of new infections occurring among young people. The estimated prevalence is 1.8 per cent. According to the Ministry of Health, AIDS is the leading cause of death for Honduran women of reproductive age.

4. Although the maternal mortality ratio declined from 180 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 108 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1997, maternal mortality remains a priority. According to a 2003 study, there are significant

gaps in emergency obstetric care. Although the contraceptive prevalence rate increased from 50 per cent in 1996 to 62 per cent in 2001, access to family planning services is limited, particularly in rural areas. The increasing number of adolescent pregnancies highlights the need for greater access to sexual and reproductive health for adolescents and youth.

5. Honduras has made progress in establishing legal and policy frameworks for gender equality and in mainstreaming gender in several sectors. The political participation of women has increased, and the number of women representatives in the national congress has doubled in the past four years. Nevertheless, social and cultural barriers to gender equality are widespread, and implementing gender-related policies and legal frameworks remains a challenge. Gender-based violence is a major problem.

6. Honduras is at risk for natural disasters, with current patterns of human settlements increasing the vulnerability of populations. The devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch in 1998 and by subsequent meteorological events demonstrated the need for further investment in disaster prevention and mitigation.

7. Violence has had a significant impact on Honduran society, and improving human security is a priority. There is an urgent need to invest in comprehensive youth programmes, since young people are particularly vulnerable to violence-related risks.

II. Past cooperation and lessons learned

8. UNFPA assistance to Honduras began in 1978. The current country programme (2002-2006) was approved for \$12.7 million (\$6 million from regular resources and \$6.7 million from other resources). By May 2006, UNFPA had mobilized \$5.14 million for the programme.

9. The programme expanded access to high-quality sexual and reproductive health services for women, men and adolescents by supporting programmes in the public, private and non-governmental sectors. An innovative project supported by the United Nations Foundation brought high-quality sexual and reproductive health services to underserved populations through social franchising.

10. Expanding partnerships with non-traditional partners was key to the success of the programme. UNFPA support to the national police and the National Women's Institute allowed gender to be mainstreamed in the national police training curriculum, with a focus on preventing and treating domestic and gender-based violence. UNFPA helped to establish the inter-ecclesiastical committee on HIV and AIDS prevention, which supports churches in HIV prevention activities.

11. The programme also provided vital support in utilizing population census data and in estimating poverty levels in 298 municipalities during the national prioritization exercise, which allocated funds within the context of the poverty reduction strategy.

12. One of the lessons learned relates to the benefits of joint programming for policy and programme impact, and for promoting the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Together with other United Nations agencies, UNFPA helped to: (a) increase national investment in youth policies and plans; (b) renew attention in emergency obstetric care; and (c) ensure that eliminating gender-based violence was an essential element of human security.

13. The participation of Honduras in UNFPA regional initiatives had a positive impact on the country programme and provided opportunities to implement innovative strategies and to benefit from high-quality technical assistance.

III. Proposed programme

14. The proposed programme, which is based on UNDAF goals, outcomes and strategies, was developed within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals, the ICPD Programme of Action and the UNFPA multi-year funding framework. It reflects a commitment to population, gender and reproductive health issues in support of the national poverty reduction strategy. In accordance with the UNDAF, programme strategies will focus on advocacy; capacity-building; and pro-poor, gender-sensitive and rights-based approaches. The programme will consist of three components: (a) reproductive health; (b) population and development; and (c) gender.

Reproductive health component

15. Based on the two UNDAF outcomes related to health and HIV/AIDS, the outcomes for the reproductive health component are: (a) Honduran society progresses towards equal and full exercise of the rights to sexual and reproductive health; and (b) universal access to services that help to prevent HIV and AIDS. The programme will focus on reaching poor and underserved populations.

16. Output 1: Strengthened capacity of the health system to increase access to and demand for high-quality sexual and reproductive health services by individuals and communities, especially poor and underserved populations. To achieve this output, UNFPA will support: (a) the scaling up of adolescent- and youth-friendly services in public and non-governmental sectors; (b) increased coverage of the national family planning programme, including a sustainable national reproductive health commodity security strategy; (c) the provision of essential reproductive health commodities and equipment to improve emergency obstetric care, in cooperation with the Japan International

Cooperation Agency (JICA); (d) building the capacity of institutions, communities and families to reduce malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women; and (e) advocacy and technical assistance for health-sector reform to increase access to and improve the quality of reproductive health services.

17. Output 2: Increased access by vulnerable groups, including women, to HIV/AIDS prevention services. This will be achieved by: (a) supporting the integration of sexual and reproductive health services with prevention and treatment services for sexually transmitted infections and HIV; (b) strengthening prevention programmes for specific groups; (c) enhancing partnerships with the armed forces, national police and faith-based communities; (d) developing a condom programming strategy; and (e) strengthening the capacity and participation of civil society and persons living with HIV and AIDS in the national HIV/AIDS response.

18. Output 3: Expanded implementation of life-skills education, including sexual health and HIV prevention, throughout the country, within the context of the national curriculum. UNFPA will support and provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Education to: (a) produce and distribute educational materials and guides; (b) train teachers, school counsellors and students; and (c) include life-skills education in the Education for All initiative.

Gender component

19. The expected outcome of this component is to ensure that institutional mechanisms and social and cultural practices promote and protect the rights of women and girls and advance gender equity. This outcome is based on two related UNDAF outcomes in the areas of health and democratic governance.

20. Output 1: Strengthened capacity of governmental, non-governmental and community

organizations to prevent and treat gender-based violence, abuse and exploitation. This output will be achieved by: (a) supporting the implementation of the national plan to prevent violence against women; (b) building the capacity of the Office of the Public Prosecutor for Women's Issues to better address domestic and gender-based violence; (c) supporting the prevention of gender-based youth violence at the local level through the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security; and (d) continuing support for the violence prevention programme with the national police.

21. Output 2: Strengthened political participation and the promotion of inclusive public policies. This will be achieved by: (a) supporting the implementation of the national women's policy and the national plan for equal opportunity; and (b) supporting programmes by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that advocate greater political participation and equal opportunities for women.

22. Output 3: Strengthened national capacity to fulfil commitments regarding relevant international conferences and conventions. This output will be achieved by: (a) strengthening partnerships with NGOs in order to better promote the implementation of the ICPD agenda and the Millennium Development Goals; and (b) supporting networks of parliamentarians to promote population-related legislation.

Population and development component

23. The expected outcomes of this component are based on UNDAF outcomes related to democratic governance, risk management and the environment. The outcomes are: (a) population and development linkages are taken into account in policies oriented towards poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; and (b) public policies and plans take into account the demographic importance of youth and foster youth participation in political, economic and social spheres.

24. Output 1: National and local capacities are built to produce and utilize population-related data. This will be achieved by: (a) strengthening the national statistical system through training and technology transfer; (b) building capacity at the local level to utilize sociodemographic data in planning; (c) supporting the inclusion of sociodemographic data in the design and implementation of poverty reduction programmes, with attention to indigenous groups; and (d) advocating the 2010 census and providing technical assistance for census design and implementation as well as for resource mobilization.

25. Output 2: Strengthened national and municipal capacities to prevent and mitigate environmental risks and coordinate an emergency response. This output will be achieved by: (a) supporting information systems to better prepare for and mitigate the effects of natural disasters, including incorporating population data into urban planning; and (b) building networks to guarantee attention to reproductive health and gender issues during humanitarian emergencies.

26. Output 3: Improved policy environment for fostering leadership, development and the participation of adolescents and youth. This output will be achieved through the existing Interagency Programme for the Promotion of Adolescent and Youth Development, supported by UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) by: (a) providing technical support for designing and implementing the national youth policy and the national strategic plan for youth (2007-2015); (b) supporting the design and implementation of the youth voluntary action programme; and (c) increasing the capacity of civil society to advocate greater investments in youth and the ratification of the Iberoamerican Convention on Rights of Youth.

IV. Programme management, monitoring and evaluation

27. The programme will employ a results-based management methodology and will monitor performance according to the UNDAF monitoring and evaluation plan. The Government and UNFPA will establish, with the Honduran Ministry for Technical Cooperation, a programme management committee to oversee programme activities and provide strategic guidance. UNFPA staff and national counterparts will make supervisory visits to project sites at least twice a year. The Government and UNFPA will conduct annual country programme reviews; UNFPA will participate in the UNDAF midterm review.

28. The national execution modality will be utilized to execute and implement the programme, using, whenever possible, the harmonized cash-transfer approach. The country office will seek to strengthen collaboration with non-governmental and grass-roots organizations, making use of their comparative advantage in programme execution. The UNFPA Country Technical Services Team in Mexico City, Mexico, and national consultants will provide technical assistance.

29. The UNFPA country office consists of a representative, a deputy representative, an assistant representative, an operations manager and administrative personnel, as per the approved country office typology. To strengthen programme implementation, funds will be earmarked for two national programme staff and three support staff. Resource mobilization efforts are under way. UNFPA will continue such efforts with interested donors, and with public and private organizations.

RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK FOR HONDURAS

<p>National priority: strengthen human capital of the poor by ensuring equal access to quality basic education and health services, thus increasing opportunities for employment and income</p> <p>UNDAF outcome: Hondurans progress towards equal and universal exercise of their rights to health, water and sanitation, food, education, culture and protection against violence</p> <p>UNDAF outcome: capacity of Honduras and its citizens is strengthened in order to ensure universal access to comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment services</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	<p><u>Outcome:</u> Honduran society progresses towards equal and full exercise of the rights to sexual and reproductive health</p> <p><u>Outcome indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contraceptive prevalence rate by socio-economic strata • Adolescent pregnancy rate • Proportion of births with skilled attendants • Decrease in maternal mortality ratio among poor women <p><u>Outcome:</u> Universal access to services that help to prevent HIV and AIDS</p> <p><u>Outcome indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of 15- to 49-year-olds who report condom use at last sexual encounter • Proportion of women who receive prenatal care services at centres where voluntary counselling and testing is offered and patients are referred to other centres, as necessary 	<p><u>Output 1:</u> Strengthened capacity of the health system to increase access to and demand for high-quality sexual and reproductive health services by individuals and communities, especially poor and underserved populations</p> <p><u>Output indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of health centres that include youth-friendly services • Increased national budget for reproductive health commodities • Proportion of hospitals providing 24-hour emergency obstetric care <p><u>Output 2:</u> Increased access by vulnerable groups, including women, to HIV/AIDS prevention services</p> <p><u>Output indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of family planning, maternal and infant care, and sexually transmitted infection management services that include voluntary counselling and testing for HIV • Proportion of comprehensive care centres that include prevention services • Proportion of condom use among commercial sex workers at last sexual encounter • Proportion of members of the armed forces that report perception of risk of contracting HIV <p><u>Output 3:</u> Expanded implementation of life-skills education, including sexual health and HIV prevention, throughout the country, within the context of the national curriculum</p> <p><u>Output indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of teachers trained about life skills for HIV prevention in line with the national curriculum • Proportion of primary and secondary schools where life-skills education, including sexuality education and HIV/AIDS prevention, is included 	<p>Ministry of Health; Honduran Institute of Social Security; Office of the First Lady; Honduran Family Planning Association; National Vocational Training Institute; WFP; FAO; Canadian International Development Agency; JICA</p> <p>Ministry of Health; Ministry of Women's Affairs; armed forces; churches; NGOs; National AIDS Forum</p> <p>Ministry of Education; Ministry of Women's Affairs; national congress; German Agency for Technical Cooperation; Spanish Agency for International Cooperation</p>	<p>\$6.5 million (\$3 million from regular resources and \$3.5 million from other resources)</p>

<p>UNDAF outcome: Hondurans progress towards equal and universal exercise of their rights to health, water and sanitation, food, education, culture and protection against violence</p> <p>UNDAF outcome: Hondurans progress in the exercise of their rights and duties in a democratic state capable of putting policies into place for participation, equity, modernization, decentralization and security</p>				
Gender	<p>Outcome: Institutional mechanisms and social and cultural practices promote and protect the rights of women and girls and advance gender equity</p> <p>Outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incidents of gender-based violence reported by the Office of the Public Prosecutor Proportion of women in the national congress Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 	<p>Output 1: Strengthened capacity of governmental, non-governmental and community organizations to prevent and treat gender-based violence, abuse and exploitation</p> <p>Output indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of public prosecutors trained on legislation related to domestic and gender-based violence Women's organizations involved in overseeing the implementation of legislation and policies on gender-based violence <p>Output 2: Strengthened political participation and the promotion of inclusive public policies</p> <p>Output indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated national plan for equal opportunity 2007-2011 <p>Output 3: Strengthened national capacity to fulfil commitments regarding relevant international conferences and conventions</p> <p>Output indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National reports on follow-up of relevant international conferences 	<p>Office of the Public Prosecutor; local governments; national police; supreme court; Ministry of Women's Affairs; United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security; civil society organizations</p> <p>Ministry of Women's Affairs; national congress; Office of the First Lady; NGOs</p> <p>Ministry of Women's Affairs; national congress; NGOs</p>	<p>\$2.5 million (\$1 million from regular resources and \$1.5 million from other resources)</p>
<p>National priority: strengthen governance and reduce ecological vulnerability, with the participation of local governments and civil society, in order to sustain the poverty reduction strategy</p> <p>UNDAF outcome: Hondurans progress in the exercise of rights and duties in a democratic state capable of putting policies in place for participation, equity, modernization, decentralization and security</p> <p>UNDAF outcome: Honduras has the capacity to reduce the vulnerability of the population</p>				
Population and development	<p>Outcome: Population and development linkages are taken into account in policies oriented towards poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals</p> <p>Outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development plans at national and local levels include population data to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction strategy goals Proportion of houses vulnerable to floods and landslides <p>Outcome: Public policies and plans take into account the demographic importance of youth and foster youth participation in political, economic and social spheres</p> <p>Outcome indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater national involvement and investment in youth issues 	<p>Output 1: National and local capacities are built to produce and utilize population-related data</p> <p>Output indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened information systems at national and local levels to monitor progress towards Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction strategy goals <p>Output 2: Strengthened national and municipal capacities to prevent and mitigate environmental risks and coordinate an emergency response</p> <p>Output indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information system with disaggregated population data <p>Output 3: Improved policy environment for fostering leadership, development and the participation of adolescents and youth</p> <p>Output indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved national youth policy National strategic youth plan (2007-2015) formulated Proportion of youth organizations participating in the national youth alliance 	<p>Ministry of the Presidency; National Statistics Institute; National Autonomous University of Honduras; Ministry of the Interior; local governments; civil society</p> <p>Ministry of the Presidency; Ministry of the Interior; local governments; NGOs</p> <p>Ministry of Youth; local governments; national youth alliance</p>	<p>\$2.75 million (\$1.25 million from regular resources and \$1.5 million from other resources)</p> <hr/> <p>Total for programme coordination and assistance: \$0.75 million from regular resources</p>