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Project Services**

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**UNFPA – Country programmes and related matters**

**UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND**

**Country programme document for Republic of Ecuador**

Proposed indicative UNFPA assistance: \$ 6.2 million: \$3.2 million from regular resources and \$3.0 million through co-financing modalities and/or other resources, including regular resources

Programme period: Four years (2015-2018)

Cycle of assistance: Sixth

Category per decision 2013/31: Pink

Proposed indicative assistance (in millions of \$):

Strategic plan outcome area		Regular resources	Other	Total
Outcome 1	Sexual and reproductive health	1.7	2.5	4.2
Outcome 2	Adolescents and youth	0.6	0.3	0.9
Outcome 3	Gender equality and women's empowerment	0.6	0.2	0.8
	Programme coordination and assistance	0.3	-	0.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>6.2</b>

\* Reissued for technical reasons on 20 August 2014.

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Please recycle



## I. Situation analysis

1. Ecuador has a largely young and urbanized population of 14.5 million (2010 estimate), with nearly 63 per cent living in urban areas and over 58 per cent younger than 29 years. Two Northern Border provinces, Esmeraldas and Sucumbios, account for 43.9 per cent of Afro-Ecuadorians and 13.4 per cent of indigenous populations, respectively.
2. Ecuador is a middle-income country; it ranks high on the 2013 UNDP human development index (0.724); some 27.3 per cent of the population lives in poverty (urban: 16.1 per cent; rural: 49.1 per cent); and 11.2 per cent live in extreme poverty (urban: 5 per cent; rural: 23.3 per cent). In the Amazon region, the percentage of the population living in poverty is 59.7 per cent; in Esmeraldas province (Northern Border), 49.7 per cent.
3. The Constitution of Ecuador, approved in 2008, highlights the importance of promoting gender equality, reproductive rights, youth and adolescent rights, and culturally sensitive and participatory approaches to development. These principles are contained in the National Development Plan, 2013-2017, which provides a strategic framework for UNFPA-assisted interventions.
4. Despite increased investment and progress in the health and education sectors, which have resulted in improved social indicators, there are still deep gaps that need to be addressed.
5. The total fertility rate was 3.1 children per woman, with great disparities among population groups. Women with high-level education had an average of two children per woman, while those without formal education had close to 6 per woman. Women in the poorest quintile had more than five children, while those in the richest quintile had less than two. Indigenous women, who tend to be poorer and less educated, had almost five children per woman on average.
6. The specific fertility rate for adolescents is 100 per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years, among the highest in the region. Between 2000 and 2010, fertility rates among girls aged 10-14 years rose by 74 per cent. Over the same period, the fertility rate of girls aged 15-19 years increased by 9 per cent. Nearly 20 per cent of adolescents aged 15-19 years have more than one child under their care, exacerbating generational poverty.
7. The HIV prevalence among the general population is 0.6 per cent; it has been stable during the last four years. The contraceptive prevalence rate is 73 per cent; the prevalence rate for modern contraceptives is 58.7 per cent. The unmet need for family planning among indigenous, uneducated and poor women is double the national average.
9. Despite significant improvements in maternal mortality, now down to 70 deaths per 100,000 live births, Ecuador is far from achieving Millennium Development Goal 5. Institutional delivery of births stands at 74.7 per cent at the national level, while it is 61.3 per cent in the Northern Border.

10. The national survey on gender-based violence of 2012 showed that three out of five women experienced gender-based violence, with one out of four women among this group having also experienced sexual violence; high levels persist in Northern Border provinces.

11. There is a need to narrow the aforementioned gaps by investing in the reproductive health and rights of women and young people and in gathering data on excluded and disadvantaged populations to analyse social inequalities.

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

12. The previous country programme (2010-2014), was aligned with national priorities, as reflected in the Constitution and the National Development Plan, 2007-2009; it highlighted the importance of addressing sexual and reproductive health and rights, particularly for indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian women, as well as youth.

13. The Government and UNFPA conducted a final evaluation of the country programme in 2013, which highlighted the following achievements: (a) positioned sexual and reproductive health and rights, along with gender, cultural and youth approaches, in the National Development Plan, 2013-2017 and into the national strategies on family planning and adolescent HIV prevention; (b) mobilized approximately \$15 million in national financial resources in support of access to reproductive health commodities, including contraceptives; (c) supported, together with United Nations partner organizations, the Ecuador socioeconomic inequality atlas; and (d) focused attention to reproductive health issues in humanitarian situations.

14. Several major lessons learned resulted from the previous country programme: (a) use of reliable, high-quality data is an essential aspect of an effective evidence-based advocacy and communications strategy in support of national policy decisions; (b) development of national ownership is crucial through capacity building, knowledge sharing and South-South and triangular cooperation; (c) efforts to promote gender equality can improve women's access to reproductive health; (d) technical assistance provided at the national and local levels have proven to be effective and efficient; (e) support to the Northern Border will reduce reproductive health gaps in the country; and (f) maintain sustainable resource mobilization strategies in support of reproductive health issues

15. Based on the lessons learned from the country programme evaluation, the following recommendations were formulated: (a) engage in policy dialogue and advocacy as the main strategies for the new country programme, complemented with technical assistance and capacity development, including through South-South and triangular cooperation, combined with knowledge management, allowing for building evidence for policy advocacy and advice; (b) use national evidence-based policy advice for subnational approaches, focusing on the Northern Border as per the national priority; and (c) promote gender equality to improve women's universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

### III. Proposed programme

16. The proposed programme was developed in consultation with the Government and strategic partners. Incorporating the lessons learned, the new programme was aligned with national priorities, as reflected in the National Development Plan, 2013-2017, and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2015-2018, as well as the UNFPA strategic plan, 2014-2017.

17. The new programme will focus on advocacy and policy dialogue in support to government efforts in achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and to reduce maternal mortality, with an emphasis on the most excluded and marginalized populations situated along the Northern Border that includes indigenous groups, Afro-Ecuadorians, poor women and girls, adolescents and youth. These efforts will be complemented with knowledge management aimed at building evidence for decision making and capacity development. The programme will apply gender and culturally responsive approaches and has a human-rights focus.

#### ***Outcome 1: Sexual and reproductive health***

18. The two country programme outputs related to the outcome 1 of the UNFPA strategic plan, on sexual and reproductive health, including maternal health and family planning, will support the achievement of the UNDAF outcome for the reduction of inequities in the enjoyment of the rights to health, education, and comprehensive social protection.

19. Output 1: Increased Ministry of Health advocacy capacities to strengthen integrated sexual and reproductive health care, including in the Northern Border and in humanitarian settings. UNFPA will achieve this output through: (a) support for evidence-based advocacy, policy dialogue and networking to increase investment in quality reproductive health care; (b) technical assistance to promote integrated sexual and reproductive health care, including HIV prevention services, particularly in the northern border, for women, adolescents and youth, and in humanitarian settings; (c) technical assistance, including through sharing of good practices, to develop and disseminate guidelines and tools on integrated sexual reproductive health with emphasis on maternal health, family planning, HIV prevention, and sexual violence; and (d) technical assistance to enhance maternal mortality surveillance.

20. Output 2: Strengthened Ministry of Health capacity to increase demand for and supply of modern contraceptives at the national level, particularly in the Northern Border. UNFPA will achieve this output through: (a) evidence-based advocacy to mobilize national resources for reproductive health commodity security and a logistical management information system; and (b) technical assistance to increase access to, demand for and use of family planning services in the northern border, especially for adolescents and young people and excluded and marginalized populations.

### ***Outcome 2: Adolescents and youth***

21. The two country programme outputs related to strategic plan outcome 2 will support the achievement of the UNDAF outcome for the reduction of inequities in the enjoyment of the rights to health, education, and comprehensive social protection.

22. Output 1: Increased capacity of national institutions to develop evidence-based sexual and reproductive health and rights policies for adolescents and youth. UNFPA will achieve this output through: (a) advocacy to promote the participation of adolescents and youth in the formulation of rights-based policies and programmes; (b) advocacy and policy dialogue for the formulation and revision of laws, policies and programmes aimed at access of adolescent and youth to high-quality sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS services; and (c) technical assistance to generate, analyse, use and disseminate data on adolescents and youth, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, gradually filling existing knowledge gaps.

23. Output 2: Increased Ministry of Education advocacy capacities to implement comprehensive sexuality education in schools. UNFPA will achieve this output through: (a) evidence-based advocacy for comprehensive sexuality education within the Ministry of Education, especially in the northern border; and (b) technical assistance in developing comprehensive sexuality education guidelines and tools.

### ***Outcome 3: Gender equality and women's empowerment***

24. The country programme output related to strategic plan outcome 3 will support the achievement of the UNDAF outcome for the promotion of gender equality and eradication of all forms of discrimination and gender-based violence.

25. Output 1: Increased capacity of national institutions and civil society organizations to respond to sexual violence in an integrated manner, including in humanitarian settings. UNFPA will achieve this output through: (a) advocacy and police dialogue to include gender equality and to address sexual violence in laws and policies; (b) generate knowledge and evidence to respond to sexual violence in an integrated manner, including in humanitarian settings; and (c) technical assistance to strengthen civil society capacities aimed at prevention of sexual violence.

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

26. UNFPA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will manage and coordinate the overall country programme using a results-based framework. The preferred implementation arrangement is national execution, through carefully selected implementing partners based on their ability to deliver high-quality programmes, at the national and local levels. UNFPA will continuously monitor the performance of its partners and make adjustments as necessary.

27. The UNDAF will establish synergies among United Nations organizations to monitor the country programme, including through the implementation of joint programmes. National and

regional institutions and experts will provide technical assistance, including for South-South cooperation, with quality assurance and monitoring organized by the UNFPA Regional Office for Latin American and the Caribbean and New York headquarters.

28. The UNFPA country office includes staff funded from the UNFPA institutional budget for management and development effectiveness. UNFPA will allocate programme resources for staff members who provide technical and programme expertise, as well as associated support, to implement the programme.

29. The country office will develop a resource-mobilization strategy to leverage national and international donor resources and private-sector resources, including matching fund mechanisms. In the event of an emergency, UNFPA may, in consultation with the Government, reprogramme activities, especially life-saving measures, to respond to humanitarian situations.

## RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK FOR ECUADOR, 2015-2018

<p><b>National priority</b> Improve the quality of life for the population.  <b>UNDAF outcome:</b> By the end of 2018, the United Nations organizations have contributed to strengthening institutional capacity, at national and local levels, and the capacity of citizens, according to the guidelines of involved sectors, to reduce inequity gaps in the enjoyment of the rights to health, education, habitat and housing, water, food, a healthy environment and comprehensive social protection.</p>				
UNFPA strategic plan outcome	Country programme outputs	Output indicators, baselines and targets	Partners	Indicative resources
<p><b>Outcome 1: Sexual and reproductive health</b>  (Increased availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services including family planning, maternal health and HIV, that are gender-responsive and meet human rights standards for quality of care and equity in access)  <u>Outcome indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of live births attended (by skilled health personnel) in health services. Baseline: 74%; Target: 80%</li> <li>Modern contraceptive prevalence rate. Baseline: 58%; Target: 64%</li> </ul>	<p><u>Output 1:</u> Increased Ministry of Health advocacy capacities to strengthen integrated sexual and reproductive health care, including in the Northern Border and in humanitarian settings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of sexual and reproductive health guidelines, protocols and standards supported by UNFPA. Baseline: 5; Target: 10</li> <li>Number of health units in the Northern Border that have trained personnel to implement maternal health norms, including family planning. Baseline: 82; Target: 107</li> <li>Number of institutions supported by UNFPA that implement the national preparedness plan on humanitarian-response in sexual and reproductive health, preventing HIV and sexual violence. Baseline: 1; Target: 3</li> </ul>	<p>Ministries of social coordination, public health, National Planning Secretariat, National, civil society organizations; academic institutions, professional federations, women, youth and community organizations, youth HIV-positive national network, and sexual workers</p>	<p>\$1.3 million (\$1.0 million from regular resources and \$0.3 million from other resources).</p>
	<p><u>Output 2:</u> Strengthened Ministry of Health capacity to increase demand for and supply of modern contraceptives at the national level, particularly in the Northern Border.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Logistics management information system in place Baseline: 0; Target: 1</li> </ul>		<p>\$2.9 million (\$0.7 million from regular resources and \$2.2 million from other resources).</p>
<p><b>National priority:</b> Improve the quality of life for the population.  <b>UNDAF outcome:</b> By the end of 2018, the United Nations organizations have contributed to strengthening institutional capacity, at national and local levels, and the capacity of citizens, according to the guidelines of involved sectors, to reduce inequity gaps in the enjoyment of the rights to health, education, habitat and housing, water, food, a healthy environment and comprehensive social protection.</p>				
<p><b>Outcome 2: Adolescents and youth</b>  (Increased priority on adolescents, especially on very young adolescent girls, in national development policies and programmes, particularly increased availability of</p>	<p><u>Output 1:</u> Increased capacity of national institutions to develop evidence-based sexual and reproductive health and rights policies for adolescents and youth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of evidenced-based advocacy documents on sexual and reproductive rights for adolescents and youth prepared with the support of UNFPA. Baseline: 2; Target: 4</li> </ul>	<p>Ministry of Public Health; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Social Inclusion; National Planning Secretariat; national civil society organizations,</p>	<p>\$0.6 million (\$0.3 million from regular resources and \$0.3 million from other resources)</p>

<p>comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health)</p> <p><u>Outcome indicator:</u> Number of laws and policies that allow adolescents access to sexual and reproductive health services. Baseline: 1; Target: 2</p>	<p><u>Output 2:</u> Increased Ministry of Education advocacy capacities to implement comprehensive sexuality education in schools, in line with international standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of comprehensive sexuality education tools developed by the Ministry of Education with the support of UNFPA. Baseline: 2; Target: 4</li> <li>• Number of schools implementing comprehensive sexuality education tools, developed in the Northern Border with the support of UNFPA. Baseline: 32; Target: 60</li> </ul>	<p>including women, youth and community organizations; youth HIV-positive national network</p>	<p>\$0.3 million (\$0.3 million from regular resources)</p>
<p><b>National priority</b> Promote equality, cohesion, inclusion and social and territorial equity within diversity. <b>UNDAF Outcome:</b> By the end of 2018, United Nations organizations have contributed to strengthening the capacity of institution and citizens to promote gender equality and eradicate gender-based violence and all forms of discrimination based on ethnicity, disability status, age and human mobility.</p>				
<p><b>Outcome 3: Gender equality and women's empowerment</b> (Advanced gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment, and reproductive rights, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized women, adolescents and youth).</p> <p><u>Outcome indicator:</u> Number of gender equality national action plans that integrate reproductive rights with specific targets and national public budget allocations. Baseline: 1; Target: 1</p>	<p><u>Output 1:</u> Increased capacity of national institutions and civil society organizations to respond to sexual violence in an integrated manner, including in humanitarian settings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of public institutions with capacities to respond in an integrated manner to sexual violence supported by UNFPA. Baseline: 2; Target: 3</li> <li>• Number of civil society organizations supported by UNFPA that advocate for women's and reproductive rights and sexual violence. Baseline: 4; Target: 6</li> <li>• Number of local networks that provide an integrated response to prevent and address sexual violence, including in humanitarian settings, in the Northern Border. Baseline: 1; Target: 2</li> </ul>	<p>National Assembly, State Attorney General; Office of the Ombudsman; non-governmental organizations; National Front for Sexual and Reproductive Rights; National Youth Assembly; youth associations for gender equality; women's rights platforms</p>	<p>\$0.8 million (\$0.6 million from regular resources and \$0.2 million from other resources).</p> <hr/> <p>Total for programme coordination and assistance: \$0.3 million from regular resources</p>