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**For action**

**United Nations Children's Fund**
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## Country programme recommendation**

### Equatorial Guinea

**Addendum**

*Summary*

The present addendum to the country note submitted to the Executive Board at its first regular session of 2001 contains the final country programme recommendation for Board approval.

It contains a recommendation for funding the country programme of Equatorial Guinea, which has an annual planning level of $1,000,000 or less. The Executive Director *recommends* that the Executive Board approve the amount of $3,269,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $1,300,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2002 to 2006.

* E/ICEF/2001/12.

** The original country note provided only indicative figures for estimated programme cooperation. The figures provided in the present addendum are final and take into account unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 2000. They will be contained in the summary of recommendations for regular resources and other resources programmes for 2001 (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.73).

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| *Basic data*[a] *(1999 unless otherwise stated)* | |
|---|---|
| Child population (millions, under 18 years) | 0.2 |
| U5MR (per 1,000 live births) (2000) | 156 |
| IMR (per 1,000 live births) (2000) | 103 |
| Underweight (% moderate and severe) | .. |
| Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births) | .. |
| Literacy (% male/female) (2000) | 92/75 |
| Primary school enrolment (% net, male/female) (1998) | 89/89 |
| Primary school children reaching grade 5 (%) | .. |
| Use of improved drinking-water sources (%) (2000) | 44 |
| Routine immunizations financed by Government (EPI) (%) (1998) | 95 |
| GNP per capita (US dollars) | $1 170 |
| One-year-olds fully immunized against: | |
| Tuberculosis | 48% |
| Diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus | 81% |
| Measles | 24% |
| Poliomyelitis | 40% |
| Pregnant women immunized against tetanus | 50% |

[a] Excerpted from the publication "Progress since the World Summit for Children: A statistical review", prepared as a supplement to the Secretary-General's report "We the Children: End-decade review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Children" (A/S-27/3), and therefore may differ from data contained in the text of this document.

## The situation of children and women

1. The analysis of the situation of children and women is essentially the same as presented in the country note submitted to the Executive Board at its first regular session 2001 (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.11). However, there have been some important new developments. At the urging of UNICEF and after participating in the consultation on child labour in Libreville, the Government approved a decree-law prohibiting trafficking in minors and took measures to combat the worst forms of child labour.

2. A document on national policy for the advancement of women in Equatorial Guinea was prepared in close collaboration with the United Nations system. The document was cleared and submitted for official government approval.

3. The multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS) was completed in December 2000. The validated data will be available sometime in June 2001.

## Programme cooperation, 1999-2003

4. In order to synchronize the cooperation cycles of the United Nations agencies in the country, the previous cooperation period was shortened to three years (1999-2001), so that the new cooperation programme will cover the period from 2002 to 2006.

5. The operating framework for the previous cooperation cycle comprised three programmes. The maternal and child health programme strengthened immunization activities through the child health project. Support for national immunization days helped raise the level of coverage of these campaigns to 93 per cent, which translates into more than 70,000 children immunized. In 1999 the project supplied 80 per cent and in 2000 60 per cent of the vaccines for the routine immunization programme, benefiting some 18,500 children under five years of age. The cold chain was reinforced; new motorcycles were purchased and existing ones maintained. Through a second project, aimed at strengthening health districts, 14 midwives and 70 traditional birth attendants were trained in seven district hospitals, with resulting improvement in the quality of prenatal examinations and the conditions for safe delivery for some 7,500 pregnant women. Under the Bamako Initiative these hospitals also received essential drugs, basic equipment and impregnated mosquito nets. In addition, hospital staff and community leaders were given training to promote the creation of community committees for self-management of health services in these districts. Through these projects, activities to disseminate information on HIV/AIDS prevention were carried out, and a preliminary draft of a national health policy was prepared.

6. As part of the community development programme, the education-for-development project helped to ensure that more than 40 per cent of children under 6 years of age, approximately 11,000, most living in rural areas, received pre-school education under a non-formal system. A special evaluation showed that children who had attended the non-formal pre-school centres were better prepared to enter the primary-school system and often performed better than pupils who had not attended the pre-school centres. The project included training for 160 pre-school education providers and coordinators. In the country's two main cities, Malabo and Bata, the general population was made more aware of the importance of school enrolment for girls. The project helped to raise the school enrolment rate from 81 per cent to 86 per cent, increase the proportion of children completing the first two years of primary school from 50 per cent to 55 per cent, and raise the proportion of girls finishing primary school from 9 per cent to 14 per cent. Under the water, sanitation and hygiene project, with the help of the International Committee of the Red Cross, 250 family latrines and three wells equipped with hand pumps managed by three water-point management committees were built. These committees will now play a key role in community organization and development and in family hygiene education. The project benefited approximately 2,500 persons and also offered an opportunity to initiate the national counterpart in the use of modern drilling techniques for the creation of water points. A team has been equipped and trained with the aim of bringing about a rapid increase in the number of wells drilled on the mainland.

7. The advocacy and social statistics programme, comprising the advocacy, information-education-communication, policies and laws, and social-statistics projects, helped to increase understanding of the issues related to children's and women's rights both among the general population and with the authorities. Support provided under the programme made it possible for the National Committee on the Rights of the Child to become operational and initiate preparation of the country's initial report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Lastly, the multiple indicator cluster survey conducted in 2000 made it possible to update social statistics and transform them into a reliable evaluation tool.

## Lessons learned from past cooperation

8. The lessons learned are essentially the same as described in the country note. Thanks to facilitation of the participation of ministerial representatives in the subregional consultation on child labour in Libreville and of the women ministers for the family and social affairs in the regional meeting in Togo on gender and the rights of women and children, senior government officials have been directly sensitized to the problems and motivated to act, and now have a greater perception of the importance of the Government's taking an active role in forging the necessary alliances to make women's and children's rights a reality.

## Recommended programme cooperation, 2002-2006

| | *Estimated annual expenditure (In thousands of United States dollars)* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *Total* |
| **Regular resources** | | | | | | |
| Promotion and monitoring of implementation of children's and women's rights | 327.0 | 327.0 | 327.0 | 327.0 | 327.0 | 1 635.0 |
| Child survival and development | 168.0 | 167.0 | 165.0 | 163.0 | 161.0 | 824.0 |
| Cross-sectoral costs | 158.0 | 160.0 | 162.0 | 164.0 | 166.0 | 810.0 |
| **Subtotal** | **653.0** | **654.0** | **654.0** | **654.0** | **654.0** | **3 269.0** |
| **Other resources** | | | | | | |
| Promotion and monitoring of implementation of children's and women's rights | 88.4 | 88.4 | 88.4 | 88.4 | 88.4 | 442.0 |
| Child survival and development | 171.6 | 171.6 | 171.6 | 171.6 | 171.6 | 858.0 |
| **Subtotal** | **260.0** | **260.0** | **260.0** | **260.0** | **260.0** | **1 300.0** |
| **Total** | **913.0** | **914.0** | **914.0** | **914.0** | **914.0** | **4 569.0** |

## The country programme preparation process

9. In view of the need to harmonize the cooperation cycles of the agencies of the United Nations system in Equatorial Guinea, the process of preparing a new cooperation programme was begun well before the end of the current programme, initially planned for 2003. The mid-term review was not held and was replaced by the annual review at the end of 2000 covering the first two years of the programme. As a result, the preparation of the new cooperation programme for 2002-2006 began in the period June-August 2000 with the elaboration of a new analysis of the situation of children and women using a rights/gender-based approach. The formulation of the new programme began in August/September 2000 with the holding of meetings with the partners leading to the drafting of a strategy document, which was approved at the end of September of that year. The country note was

submitted to the Executive Board in January 2001. That was followed by the preparation of a framework operational plan, sectoral operational plans and this country programme recommendation. The majority of the stakeholders and technical and financial partners involved in the programme, including non-governmental organizations, the United Nations system and the various bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies, participated at all stages of the process by holding joint meetings and workshops, which allowed a broad consensus to be achieved on the future direction of the programme, in keeping with the Global Movement for Children, the UNICEF medium-term strategic plan and the Vision of the African Child in West and Central Africa. This process is also part of the new momentum related to the preparation of a United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

## Goals and objectives of the country programme

10. The aim of the cooperation programme is to contribute to the promotion and realization of children's and women's rights. Its objectives are to assist in: (a) achieving harmonization between national laws and the two Conventions, and strengthening the monitoring of their implementation; (b) improving access to and quality of basic health and education services in seven districts; and (c) strengthening mechanisms for monitoring the situation of children and women, as well as measures to help children with special protection needs. The new programme is in accordance with government objectives and will help to: reduce infant mortality from 111 to 89 per 1,000 live births and maternal mortality from 352 to 280 per 100,000 live births; increase the net school enrolment rate from 81 to 86 per cent and the rate of completion of basic education for girls from 24 to 34 per cent, as well as to reduce the repetition rate from 27 to 22 per cent and the rate of school drop-outs from 9 to 4 per cent. In tandem, the country programme will support nationwide projects as well as those confined to a target area comprising five districts (70,613 inhabitants) on the mainland and two districts on the islands (23,245 inhabitants) covered by the previous cooperation programme. These seven districts (21 per cent of the population) had been selected on the basis of weak socio-economic indicators, high poverty level and low involvement of other international development partners. These criteria remain valid.

11. The **programme for the promotion and monitoring of the implementation of children's and women's rights** will have national coverage. The **child survival and development programme** will also be national in scope, while activities to provide services will be concentrated in the districts in the target area.

## Links with national and international priorities

12. The framework operational plan for 2002-2006 refers to national policies as a whole, as well as to the commitments made by Equatorial Guinea at the various conferences in which it participated and the conventions to which it is a party. For instance, it attended the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development, the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development, the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women and the Rome World Food Summit. In 1984 it acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and in 1992 the Government ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and drew up its national plan of action for women and children.

13. In 1997, the National Economic Conference decided to allocate 40 per cent of public expenditure to the social sector, in the following order: education and science (15 per cent); health and social welfare (10 per cent); social affairs and the status of women (4 per cent); youth and sports (3 per cent); culture (3 per cent); methods of social communication (3 per cent); labour (2 per cent); and population (1 per cent). During the evaluation of the Medium-Term Economic Development Strategy conducted in 1999, it was noted that most of the funds had not been made available to the budgets of the relevant ministries. Nevertheless, the Government reaffirmed its intention to strengthen budget allocations for basic social sectors.

14. At the sectoral level, preliminary projects are available in the fields of health care, reproductive health, traditional medicine and the advancement of women. The cooperation programme is in keeping with these preliminary outlines of sectoral policies and with UNICEF priorities.

## Country programme strategy

15. In the interests of continuity, the cooperation programme will continue certain priority projects of the previous programme in the areas of primary health care, immunization, school enrolment for girls and early-childhood development. Support for the non-formal pre-school system will be redirected towards activities leading to consolidation of progress and the adoption of this system by the Government and the communities. At the same time, the programme will strengthen involvement in some emerging fields, such as promotion of rights, HIV/AIDS prevention and quality of education. It will pay particular attention to monitoring of the situation of children and women and to monitoring and evaluation of project implementation.

16. Strategies to be adopted will include national capacity-building at all levels, and development of the partnership between Government, civil society, all other stakeholders and UNICEF, with a view to creating new alliances and consolidating existing ones. Synergy among activities will be ensured through the application of the principle of targeting activities in a concentrated zone of operations. Conditions will be created to allow for more effective participation by youth and adolescent organizations, in particular in combating HIV/AIDS and in health education. Particular attention will be accorded to communication to encourage behavioural change and implementation of a rights-based approach through the identification of gender-based disparities and discrimination and of the most vulnerable groups. Advocacy for efficient allocation of resources to priority social sectors will also be strengthened. Support for the delivery of quality services will primarily involve the fields of health, education and water and sanitation in the seven target districts, in particular through the promotion of community participation, especially of women, young children and adolescents, and the use of appropriate technologies. The Government will receive support for furthering the decentralization of public services under the coordination of national and regional planning bodies in the priority areas of the current country programme.

17. The **programme for the promotion and monitoring of the implementation of children's and women's rights** will help to: facilitate implementation of the two Conventions; strengthen mechanisms for monitoring the situation of children and women, in particular the most vulnerable groups; and develop activities targeted at groups of children with special protection needs. Activities will also be undertaken

to promote the gradual harmonization of national laws with the Conventions, to strengthen the capacity of the judiciary, the police and local authorities to implement children's rights, and to promote behavioural changes among traditional authorities, communities and families. Organizations for youth and adolescents will be formed to enable them to promote respect for their own rights and evaluate behavioural changes within their communities. Indicators for monitoring emergency preparedness will be proposed. In collaboration with other United Nations agencies, the programme will help to strengthen the national system for compiling and analysing social statistics. It will facilitate identification of vulnerable groups and priority activities and strengthen advocacy for better allocation and utilization of the State budget for basic social services. During the second phase, better targeted and more specific activities for children with special protection needs will be developed.

18. **Child survival and development**. This programme, functioning at the national level and in close collaboration with all the partners, will support the preparation of policies for health, early-childhood development and basic education; the eradication of poliomyelitis and the raising of routine immunization coverage to 80 per cent; the consumption of iodized salt in 80 per cent of households; and the prevention of HIV/AIDS, particularly among adolescents. Support for all non-formal pre-school centres is aimed at consolidating the gains and having the system adopted by the people and the Government. In the targeted area, service delivery and staff training will help to improve access to and quality of basic education and health services. The coordination mechanisms and the capacity of the relevant decentralized structures will be strengthened. In the seven district hospitals and in the health centres, particular attention will be given to disease control and early detection of high-risk pregnancies. In the pre-school centres, attention will be given to enhancing the ability of parents and families to protect and stimulate children under six years old, to interact with them, prepare them for successful schooling and grant them their rights. In the schools, the programme will help to promote the initiative "School — the child's best friend" and the enrolment of girls. Youth and adolescent associations will be given the necessary training to support efforts for the promotion of health education and greater awareness of HIV/AIDS in schools and communities, and to enhance appreciation of behavioural change.

19. **The cross-sectoral costs** will help to cover some staff and operational costs for the country programme.

## Monitoring and evaluation

20. Programme monitoring and evaluation will be conducted by means of an integrated plan for project monitoring and evaluation with the participation of the Project Monitoring Committee, functioning at the national level within the Ministry of Planning. It will be supplemented by the work of the sectoral-planning units of each ministry involved in programme implementation. This integrated plan will constitute an effective tool for programme monitoring and evaluation and will ensure that data is gender-disaggregated. It will be implemented primarily by supervisory missions in the field conducted by national counterpart and UNICEF staff and by the preparation of reports on the management of UNICEF funds and the execution of programmed activities. The ministries will take the necessary measures to avoid delays in justifying the funds received. Analysis of progress reports on the programme will be carried out at quarterly meetings and during the annual review.

Follow-up charts in matrix form will be designed for each project to record activities, indicators, frequency of follow-up, information sources and multilateral strategies. These matrixes will be revised and supplemented regularly, where necessary, using data from specific surveys. The multiple indicator cluster surveys conducted in 2000 will enable basic data for the target area to be prepared. A second multiple indicator cluster survey is scheduled for 2005. This integrated plan provides for a mid-term programme review in 2004 and an end-of-cycle review in 2006.

## Collaboration with the other partners

21. UNICEF will maintain close contact with the United Nations system, bilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations, lenders and civil society in general. In the case of the agencies of the United Nations system, this approach is designed to enhance coordination of programme activities, especially during the national vaccination days and in the campaign to prevent the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Special efforts will be made to ensure that social-sector development and poverty reduction complement each other through existing thematic groups, covering HIV/AIDS, water and hygiene, food security and nutrition, good governance, health, education, communications/advocacy and operations. UNICEF's participation in the National Committee for Prevention and Control of AIDS will make it possible to ensure, in collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, coordination with the lenders in activities for promotion, planning and resource mobilization in the campaign against HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, UNICEF membership in the National Committee for Universal Education will enable the programme to participate in coordination with the education system for development of the sector, particularly in elaborating and implementing a national plan of action. The National Committee on the Rights of the Child will coordinate advocacy in behalf of children and will follow up the initial report on the implementation of the Convention and the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. It will ensure that government measures are implemented and that the rights of children are respected. The constant search for other partners will be an inherent aspect of the cooperation programme. This is the case with the programme for the promotion and monitoring of the implementation of children's and women's rights, which will operate in tandem with the programme for democracy and good governance envisaged by the European Union.

## Programme management

22. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Relations with French-speaking Countries will be responsible for relations between the government agencies and UNICEF, while the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development will take charge of technical coordination, especially monitoring and evaluation of the programme, mid-term review and end-of-cycle evaluation.

23. The sectoral ministries will be responsible for project management, and UNICEF will support project implementation. For each project, the corresponding ministry will designate a project coordinator who will work in partnership with the UNICEF project officer in planning, managing and directing project activities. In the

field, activities will be carried out with the direct participation of non-governmental organizations, development associations, the private sector and local partners. Arrangements for cooperation with these bodies will be laid down in separate agreements, in accordance with the rules followed by UNICEF and the Government.

24. Each project will be planned and executed in accordance with an annual plan of action prepared by the Government and UNICEF at the beginning of each year. Other cooperation agencies, United Nations system agencies, lenders, youth associations and non-governmental organizations will be invited to participate in meetings and in certain programmed activities. The annual plan of action will provide the basis for the Government to request funds, supplies or services from UNICEF. The regular resources will be allocated to activities covering the entire national territory as well as certain districts, whereas the other resources will make it possible to extend the activities to all seven selected districts and to supplement vaccination activities.

25. To facilitate programme management, UNICEF will have a sub-office in Malabo to look after programme coordination and conduct administrative and financial operations.