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### United Nations Children's Fund

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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

### **Draft country programme document\*\***

### **Mexico**

#### *Summary*

The draft country programme document (CPD) for Mexico is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and comments. The Executive Board is requested to approve the aggregate indicative budget of \$3,770,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$36,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2014 to 2018.

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\* E/ICEF/2013/19.

\*\* In accordance with Executive Board decision 2006/19, the present document will be revised and posted on the UNICEF website, along with the results matrix, no later than six weeks after discussion of the CPD at the 2013 second regular session of the Executive Board. The revised CPD will then be presented to the Executive Board for approval at the first regular session of 2014.



*Basic data<sup>†</sup>**(2011 unless otherwise stated)*

Child population (millions, under 18 years, male/female)	20.0/19.4
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	16
Underweight (% , moderate and severe, 2012)	3
(male/female, urban/rural, poorest/richest)	..
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births, adjusted, 2010)	50 <sup>a</sup>
Use of improved drinking water sources (%)	94
Use of improved sanitation facilities (%)	85
One year olds immunized with DPT3 (%)	97 <sup>b</sup>
One year olds immunized against measles (%)	98 <sup>b</sup>
Primary school enrolment (% , net male/female, 2010)	99/100
Survival rate to last primary grade (% , male/female, 2009)	93/95 <sup>c</sup>
Adult HIV prevalence rate (% , 15-49 years, male/female)	0.2
HIV prevalence among pregnant women (%)	..
Child labour (% , 5-14 years, male/female)	6/4
Birth registration (% , under 5 years of age, 2009)	93 <sup>d</sup>
(% , male/female, urban/rural, poorest/richest)	../.., 98/82, ../.. <sup>d</sup>
GNI per capita (US\$)	9 240

<sup>†</sup> More comprehensive country data on children and women as well as detailed methodological notes on estimates can be found at [www.childinfo.org](http://www.childinfo.org).

<sup>a</sup> The figure reported in the above table is the adjusted MMR estimate prepared by the Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group. The reported MMR estimate at the country level is 54 deaths per 100,000 live births (2010), as presented in the Ministry of Health and National Population Council (CONAPO) estimates, 2010.

<sup>b</sup> The immunization figures reported in the above table are inter-agency estimates prepared by WHO/UNICEF. The data, disaggregated by sex, are as follows: DPT3 male 95% and female 93%; measles male 81% and female 83%, UNICEF calculations based on data from the National Health and Nutrition Survey (ENSANUT), 2012.

<sup>c</sup> The Ministry of Education estimates a primary school survival rate of 95% (total, 2011/2012). This slight variation is likely due to the use of a different data source for the underlying school-aged population.

<sup>d</sup> Data are based on an indicator definition that differs from the standard. This estimate refers to prompt registration within the first 11 months of life, rather than standard of registered children under age 5.

## Summary of the situation of children and women

1. Mexico is the world's eleventh-most populated country,<sup>1</sup> with 116.9 million people, 39.4 million of whom are children and adolescents under 18 years of age. Mexico was the world's twelfth-largest economy in 2011.<sup>2</sup> Important advances have been made in health, education and social protection coverage for children in recent years. However, stark inequalities and lack of protection from violence remain the main challenges for children's social inclusion and rights fulfilment. Approximately

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mx.html>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mx.html>.

5.1 million children live in extreme poverty,<sup>3</sup> 86 per cent of children in indigenous schools have poor results in primary school achievement tests in Spanish,<sup>4</sup> and 6 out of 10 children report having experienced violence at home or in school.<sup>5</sup> Important constitutional human rights reform in 2011 incorporated the “best interests of the child” principle, which is opening the way for legislative and institutional reforms to address historical legal, institutional and policy fragmentation in child rights matters. It will have ramifications in future policymaking and judicial decisions.

2. Children who face the highest levels of deprivation are those living in rural southern areas, in large households, whose parents have a lower level of education and are unemployed or working in the informal sector.<sup>6</sup> The highly fragmented nature of health and education services, which have varying quality standards, affects particularly rural, indigenous and marginalized areas. Increasing fiscal capacity and making public spending more progressive with inclusive social policies are key to reversing inequalities.

3. A new Government took office in December 2012. With the National Development Plan for 2013-2018, an initial agreement was reached with main opposition parties to prioritize 95 commitments (“Pacto por México”) to address the fulfilment of social and economic rights. With a special emphasis on the quality of education, a constitutional reform was approved in 2013.

4. Based on national averages, most Millennium Development Goals indicators have improved, but disaggregated data still show inequalities and exclusion. If current trends persist, reaching the targets on maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS, gender equality and environmental sustainability will be unlikely.<sup>7</sup>

5. In 2010, 21.4 million children and adolescents (54 per cent) were living in poverty. The proportion of children living in extreme poverty is five times higher in rural areas than in big cities (26.6 per cent vs. 4.6 per cent).<sup>8</sup> Among the indigenous population under 18, the incidence of poverty was 76 per cent.<sup>9</sup> Despite the fact that a higher proportion of children living in rural areas are poor (70.7 per cent), 47.5 per cent of children in poverty are living in urban areas (7.6 million rural vs. 13.8 million urban). Although there are no real differences in poverty levels between boys and girls (51 per cent vs. 51.9 per cent),<sup>10</sup> poverty is relatively higher (55.5 per cent) for those youngest (0-5 years).<sup>11</sup> Progress has been made in reducing the child mortality national average, and Mexico will likely meet Goal 4 in 2015. While under-five mortality decreased from 47 per 1,000 live births to 16 between 1990 and

<sup>3</sup> Consejo Nacional de Evaluación de la Política de Desarrollo Social (CONEVAL), Encuesta Nacional de Ingresos y Gastos de los Hogares (ENIGH)-Módulo de Condiciones Socioeconómicas (MCS), 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Secretaría de Educación Pública, *Estadística. Evaluación Nacional del Logro Académico en Centros Escolares (ENLACE)*. <http://enlace.sep.gob.mx/>.

<sup>5</sup> UNICEF 2009, *Gender Violence in Schools: Survey on Exclusion, Intolerance and Violence in Senior High Schools* (2009).

<sup>6</sup> UNICEF-CONEVAL, *Pobreza y derechos sociales de niñas, niños y adolescentes en México, 2008-2010*. México (2012).

<sup>7</sup> Presidencia de la República, *Los objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en México—Informe de Avances 2010* (2011).

<sup>8</sup> UNICEF-CONEVAL, op. cit. p.59.

<sup>9</sup> Idem, p.11.

<sup>10</sup> Idem, p.49.

<sup>11</sup> Idem, p.51.

2011, it remains high in southern states with larger proportions of rural indigenous communities. The neonatal mortality rate was 7 in 2010.<sup>12</sup>

6. Although the Goal 1 target of 7.1 per cent prevalence of underweight among children under 5 was achieved in 1999, recent data on health and nutrition<sup>13</sup> reveal concerns: stunting remains at 13.6 per cent (almost 1.5 million children). Consistently, the highest incidence is registered in southern rural areas (27.5 per cent). The numbers of children considered to be overweight and obese continue to be of concern. The combined prevalence among primary school-age children (5-11 years) is 34.4 per cent and among adolescents (12-19) 35 per cent, or 6.3 million.<sup>14</sup>

7. The maternal mortality ratio has declined since 1990 from 89 deaths per 100,000 live births to 50 in 2010, but Mexico is unlikely to reach the Goal 5 target of 22 by 2015.<sup>15</sup> Maternal mortality in Guerrero state (103.2) is five times higher than in Nuevo León (21.2), the lowest in the country. National efforts have addressed this issue but more are needed so that comprehensive strategies can be developed to guarantee women's timely access to quality obstetric care facilities and quality prenatal care.

8. Mexico made significant progress in ensuring children's gender-equal access to basic education, (reflected in the universalization of primary education and a significant number of girls attending all basic education levels). Still, more than 6 million children aged 3-17 are out of school, (52 per cent boys). Significantly, 48 per cent of out-of-school children are preschool age and 36 per cent are upper-secondary school age, despite the fact that these two levels are mandatory. The net attendance rate (2011/2012) is 70.7 per cent in preschool, 100.3 per cent in primary, 82.4 per cent in secondary, and 52.9 per cent in upper secondary.<sup>16</sup> Access to upper secondary education, though increasing, needs to be widened to overcome great disparities. Indigenous girls lag 10 percentage points behind non-indigenous girls in accessing high schools, with 41.8 per cent of the former not attending. A 6 percentage point gap exists between indigenous and non-indigenous boys attending upper secondary education.<sup>17</sup>

9. Quality remains a significant challenge. Gaps persist between students attending various educational modalities (e.g., private, public, indigenous, etc.). According to a 2010 national evaluation, Evaluación Nacional de Logro Académico en Centros Escolares (ENLACE),<sup>18</sup> 86 per cent of indigenous children in primary schools have poor Spanish-language achievement, as do 63.1 per cent in general primary. In general secondary education, 82.4 per cent of students achieved elemental and insufficient scores in the subject of Spanish, and 87.2 per cent of students in tele-secondary (the modality offered in most marginalized urban and

<sup>12</sup> UNICEF, *The State of the World's Children 2012*, p.89.

<sup>13</sup> Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública (INSP), *Encuesta Nacional de Salud y Nutrición* (ENSANUT), 2012.

<sup>14</sup> INSP, *Encuesta Nacional de Salud y Nutrición* (ENSANUT), 2012.

<sup>15</sup> Presidencia de la República, 2011, *Los objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en México — Informe de Avances 2010* (2011).

<sup>16</sup> In Mexico, preschool covers children aged 3-5 years old, primary education covers children 6-11, secondary education covers adolescents 12-14 and upper secondary covers adolescents 15-17.

<sup>17</sup> UNICEF estimates based on the 2010 Census, ENIGH 2010, and *Encuesta Nacional de Ocupación y Empleo* (ENOE), 2011.

<sup>18</sup> ENLACE.

remote rural areas). Another challenge lies in retention, especially at secondary level. While the national dropout rate in primary education (2010/2011) was 0.7 per cent, it was 5.6 per cent for lower secondary and 14.9 per cent for upper secondary. Regarding dropout, girls show lower rates than boys in all educational levels. Recent data on child labour (2011) indicate that three million children (5-17 years) work, of which almost 40 per cent are not in school.

10. While Mexico has advanced social policies, the principal bottleneck for children's access to protection services stems from a vastly decentralized legal framework, the limited coordination of services and the need for clear mandates and responsibilities among different sectors and administrative levels. Moreover, there exists no commonly agreed concept of child protection obligations. A weak culture of child rights rebounds in a number of rights violations, including the fact that 10.5 per cent of children aged 5-17 are engaged in child labour.<sup>19</sup> What is more, 54 per cent of the population believes the use of physical punishment is justified to ensure children's obedience, 3.6 per cent believe children have no rights, and 27 per cent believe children only have rights conferred by their parents.<sup>20</sup> As a result, neither rights-holders nor duty-bearers are able to easily identify and act upon child protection risks. Overall, the construction of an integrated child protection system with clear responsibilities at all administrative levels is both a challenge and an opportunity for Mexico. The same holds true for implementing common standards across a specialized juvenile justice system.

11. Children and adolescents are impacted by the upsurge in social violence resulting from rivalry among organized crime groups, and the consequent security operations.<sup>21</sup> The homicide rate almost tripled between 2007 and 2011 (from 8.2/100,000 to 23.5; 42.9 for the male population). It more than doubled for those under 18.<sup>22</sup> Adolescent boys are the predominant victims of homicide. However, girls under 18 comprise 17.2 per cent of the victims of *feminicide*.<sup>23</sup>

12. In sum, relative economic growth and progress in social policy have not yet been sufficient to guarantee the rights of all children and adolescents. Nevertheless, the unique opportunities resulting from the 2011 Constitutional Reform to establish working governance mechanisms for child rights and child protection at all levels of the federation, and the reform agenda of the new administration, open a window to closing equity gaps.

<sup>19</sup> Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI)/Secretaría del Trabajo y Previsión Social (STPS), *Módulo de Trabajo Infantil (MTI)/Encuesta Nacional de Ocupación y Empleo (ENOE)*, 2011.

<sup>20</sup> *Encuesta Nacional sobre Discriminación en México (ENADIS)*, 2010. Consejo Nacional para Prevenir la Discriminación (CONAPRED).

<sup>21</sup> Official figures attribute an estimated 47,515 deaths from December 2006 to September 2011 to rivalry between organized crime groups, criminal activities and civil and military security operations in response [www.presidencia.gob.mx/base-de-datos-de-fallecimientos](http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/base-de-datos-de-fallecimientos), [www.pgr.gob.mx/temas%20relevantes/estadistica/estadisticas.asp](http://www.pgr.gob.mx/temas%20relevantes/estadistica/estadisticas.asp).

<sup>22</sup> According to the Sistema Nacional de Información en Salud, Secretaría de Salud/ Censo 2010, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía/*Estimaciones de la Población 2010-2030*, CONAPO, it went from 1.6 to 3.9/100,000 in 2011, and for adolescents aged 15-17 from 5.3 to 15.82/100,000 in that same period.

<sup>23</sup> ONU Mujeres, Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres, Cámara de Diputados. *Feminicidio en México. Aproximación, tendencias y cambios*, 1985-2009.

13. In 2012 the Mexican Government presented its fourth and fifth reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In its 2011 Concluding Observations regarding implementation of the two Optional Protocols, the Committee highlighted the need for improved overall coordination of child rights policy, for information systems on violence against children, for prevention, response and rehabilitation policies related to both protocols, and for child-appropriate judicial procedures. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern in 2012 about the impact on women and girls of increased social violence, the phenomenon of femicide, the lack of legal harmonization throughout the country and the uneven implementation of laws on prevention of violence against women and trafficking in persons. The Committee also drew attention to the issue of pregnancies among adolescents.

14. Since Mexico is vulnerable to natural disasters, national capacities for emergency preparedness and response are well developed and have usually been effective at all government levels. The Government is capable of responding to disasters promptly and effectively, minimizing impact on families and especially on children. The country is well prepared for situation-monitoring, early warning, and disaster risk assessment.

## **Key results and lessons learned from previous cooperation, 2008-2013**

### **Key results achieved**

15. Previous cooperation reinforced a role for UNICEF in Mexico: making all forms of exclusion visible and unacceptable while strengthening national and subnational coordination and capacities to address them through the development of inclusive and child-centred policies, laws and budgets.

16. A child-focused perspective with an equity lens was brought to the national agenda on a range of emerging issues through UNICEF evidence-based advocacy and support to arising national priority platforms. The issues related to migration and gender violence, birth registration, and articulation of early childhood development (ECD) policies. The specific impacts of poverty and the financial crisis on children were underscored in a 2009 study by CONEVAL and UNICEF, conducted to inform integrated and targeted poverty and disparity-reduction strategies.<sup>24</sup> Since 2010, with the Ministry of Finance and the Federal Congress, UNICEF has supported public expenditure analysis. As a result, the federal budget now specifically identifies spending on children,<sup>25</sup> a first step towards improving the targeting and effectiveness of social programmes.

17. A 2012 national study on out-of-school children and barriers to inclusion among all age groups, which furthered understanding of key bottlenecks in the education sector, was used as a reference for the education reform. Regular national data collection on child labour<sup>26</sup> and birth registration<sup>27</sup> was instituted in

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<sup>24</sup> See [http://www.unicef.org/mexico/spanish/mx\\_CrisisUNICEFbaja.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/mexico/spanish/mx_CrisisUNICEFbaja.pdf).

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.infoninez.mx/inversion-social-2012>.

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.inegi.org.mx/est/contenidos/Proyectos/Encuestas/Hogares/modulos/mti/mti2011/default.aspx>.

<sup>27</sup> [http://www.inegi.org.mx/prod\\_serv/contenidos/espanol/bvinegi/productos/integracion/especiales/derecho\\_ident/Derecho\\_a\\_la\\_identidad.pdf](http://www.inegi.org.mx/prod_serv/contenidos/espanol/bvinegi/productos/integracion/especiales/derecho_ident/Derecho_a_la_identidad.pdf).

partnership with the National Statistics Institute to drive policymaking in these areas.

18. UNICEF established an online DevInfo-based information system ([www.infoninez.mx](http://www.infoninez.mx)) that became the “go to” reference for disaggregated data and policy analysis on child rights. Additionally, official and United Nations data on child and maternal mortality were harmonized to facilitate a common ground for policy discussion.

19. UNICEF contributed to positioning ECD programming so as to increase children’s access to quality and culture-sensitive ECD services. Through partnership with a range of institutions, UNICEF introduced a child rights approach to strategic areas in ECD, mobilizing institutional resources, modifying operational rules of public programmes, and generating commitments and key alliances. Specific methods for increasing educational inclusion of children at all levels of education were developed in partnership with state and federal governments. In the context of the All Children in School initiative, the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca, Yucatán and Zacatecas use new tools to monitor and secure school access and retention, taking into account the large indigenous and migrant populations in the states. In Chiapas, 40,000 additional children were included in school between 2007 and 2012. To increase the quality of school environments and prevent secondary school dropout, adolescent participation was encouraged and methodologies instituted. Now, 1.3 million adolescents in senior high schools nationwide participate annually in a federal Ministry of Education adolescent life-skills programme derived from a UNICEF methodology and scaled up through a United Nations joint programme.

20. Migrant children benefit from new laws, budgets, policies, practices and training for specialized child protection migration officers, all of which are shared internationally for replication or adaptation through South-South cooperation. Mexican practical experience and evidence on child protection systems have been enhanced through the development of inter-institutional protocols responding to violence, especially gender violence, in disadvantaged urban and rural contexts, addressing specific vulnerabilities of indigenous girls.

21. Resource mobilization strategies were developed as a core function of the country programme. Nearly 50 per cent of other resources are raised locally, and there was a 92 per cent increase in pledge donors over the past five years. Private sector alliances leveraged ‘value chains’ of corporations in the retail, banking, publishing, pharmaceutical, food and telecommunications sectors. These partners acted as stakeholders in promoting child rights agendas, beyond their role as donors.

### **Lessons learned**

22. As identified in the midterm review, building flexibility into the country programme was crucial in responding to emerging issues impacting on children (financial crisis, migration, organized crime, influenza AH1N1). It allowed new opportunities to be grasped as demands for actions arose at national and subnational levels. This agility to respond to emerging demands and opportunities and support innovative policies with intervention models was also pertinent to the growing South-South cooperation agenda of Mexico.

23. The effectiveness of UNICEF evidence-based advocacy lies in constant and high-quality technical support for the institutions to introduce the human-rights-

based approach to planning and budgeting. Combining targeted evidence-based advocacy with social awareness and mobilization, such as communication for development, has proven more sustainable in reinforcing a rights-based culture, and uptake of policy initiatives.

24. A sharpened equity focus, with the introduction of the Monitoring Results for Equity System and the Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis, calls for a modified approach to cooperation at subnational level. It also calls for both promoting and maintaining good capacity development for supporting the generation of harmonized and disaggregated data on children and analytical work to support policymaking. The role of UNICEF is advisory and normative. Partnerships with centres of excellence have specialized in key domains such as the human rights-based approach, indigenous education, child-focused budget formulation, emergency preparedness and inter-institutional protocols in response to violence. These areas have demonstrated good potential for building capacity at subnational level. Harnessing such expertise to provide technical assistance can complement the broader strategy for building subnational capacity to address all children's rights.

25. Despite the country's already-developed capacities in data collection and analysis, challenges remain in securing adequately disaggregated data on key child-related indicators through harmonized data collection, particularly in child protection.

## The country programme, 2014-2018

### Summary budget table

<i>Programme component</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Policy analysis and knowledge generation	2 632	3 150	5 782
System-building for child protection	550	6 500	7 050
Early child and primary school-age child development with equity	54	4 425	4 479
Adolescent development and participation	67	5 500	5 567
Social and resource mobilization for the rights of children and adolescents	0	9 662	9 662
Cross-sectoral	467	6 763	7 230
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 770</b>	<b>36 000</b>	<b>39 770</b>

### Preparation process

26. As part of the United Nations country team (UNCT), UNICEF contributed to the Common Country Assessment finalized early 2013 and to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) signed in March 2013. The country programme was based on the outcomes of these documents, with the Summary Results Matrix in line with UNDAF results matrix and with the final draft of the UNICEF Strategic Plan for 2014-2017.



27. The country programme reflects the results of the 2010 midterm review, annual reviews, and continued consultations with Ministries, with key counterparts at national and subnational levels, and with strategic allies. Mexico presented its fourth and fifth reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child by mid-2012. The country programme will provide due consideration to the observations derived from both reports, while also providing follow-up to observations derived from the third report, particularly those dealing with indigenous and migrant children, promotion of increased social investment, and data availability. Follow-up will also be given to the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2012), especially those on violence against women and girls.

### **Programme components, results and strategies**

28. The overall goal is to support national efforts to accelerate the realization of the rights of children and adolescents, as stated on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, by focusing on reduction of disparities and inequities and contributing to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda.

29. To achieve this goal, the programme will focus on strengthening national and local capacities and coordination for the implementation of child-related policies and programmes with a human rights-based approach to influence national and subnational legislation, planning and budgets, especially in favour of the 21.4 million children who live in poverty. Evidence-based advocacy will be used for promoting pro-child, gender-sensitive and culturally pertinent policies, laws and budgets. UNICEF will use its convening role for strengthening strategic partnerships and alliances with different sectors, including public-private partnerships and engagement with non-governmental organizations, centres of excellence, academic institutions, the media and policymakers. UNICEF will also provide high-level technical assistance in key areas and facilitate the exchange of knowledge among countries.

30. The subnational programme strategy will seek to cover all states with different approaches, based on the situation analysis of children in each state and considering the government cycle of each state.

31. For system-building across sectors, UNICEF will emphasize more integrated and equitable policies and services for the youngest girls and boys (0-5) and for adolescents (12-17). The programme will contribute to strengthening institutional mechanisms to secure access to rights and services for the most deprived and excluded children and adolescents.

32. Gender analysis and gender-based programmatic and policy instruments will help to make the disparities affecting girls and boys visible.

33. Mexico is strongly placed to share its knowledge and experience in emergency preparedness and disaster response widely within the region, through international and South-South cooperation. In this context, UNICEF will continue to support subnational and national efforts to strengthen a child rights focus in implementing disaster risk reduction and preparedness strategies, especially preparedness in schools, and psycho-social support capacity.

**Programme components****Programme component: Policy analysis and knowledge generation**

34. This component will strengthen national and subnational capacity of policymakers for generating quality disaggregated and gender-sensitive data for evidence-based situation analysis on children, social policy tracking and recommendations, and budget and expenditure analysis, with a focus on reducing inequities and child poverty. At the federal level, the work will revolve around ensuring an equity focus for social programmes for children provided by federal government counterparts, so that all children have access to quality services. At the subnational level, work will focus on increasing the capacity of local actors to generate, analyse and use data to prioritize actions to fulfil rights for the most disadvantaged children.

35. This component will focus on making sure that child-focused research and evidence are available to decision makers and contribute to policy debates. To improve the coverage of social programmes benefiting the most disadvantaged children, UNICEF will work with line Ministries and the Ministry of Finance at the federal level. Activities will include supporting local research and evidence-generation and direct monitoring of government programmes and policies by civil society and academic institutions. This will ensure that (a) the people intended to be reached by programmes (e.g., social protections systems), the most excluded and disadvantaged girls and boys, are included, (b) that budgets are sufficient and equitably distributed to guarantee the rights of all children, and (c) that a full range of indicators of child rights are monitored based on standardized data collection methodologies.

**Programme component: System-building for child protection**

36. This component focuses on strengthening institutional mechanisms across sectors for more integrated, equitable policies, programmes and systems to ensure protection of children against violence, abuse and exploitation. UNICEF will respond to the unique opportunity provided by the 2011 Constitutional Reform on child rights matters, offering technical assistance and international expertise, for operationalization of effective policy coordination and child protection mechanisms across sectors at national and subnational levels. This will involve supporting legislative and institutional reform, and capacity-building for effective national and local child rights promotion and protection systems. To protect children from violence and exploitation throughout their life cycle, UNICEF will support the development of effective special protection mechanisms, including access to social care and justice at all levels of the federation. This will involve work with social assistance, health, education, security and justice sectors, improving their capacity to work together to prevent, detect and respond to violence and exploitation against children in the home, school, community and institutions, including in residential care and juvenile justice. A particular focus will be on strengthening the operational capacity of those who work in social assistance and justice to adopt child-sensitive and gender-sensitive protocols and working practices.

**Programme component: Early childhood and primary-school age child development with equity**

37. This component addresses strengthening national capacities to promote early child and child development, especially for the most marginalized children. UNICEF will promote programmes that improve caregivers' capacities to ensure the fulfilment of rights of the youngest children, supporting government efforts to strengthen the role of families and institutions. Specific actions include increasing the knowledge of families and other caregivers: on children's rights, on their own capacity to promote these rights, and on accessing relevant services in their communities. This includes increasing access for the 1.6 million children under 5 who live in extreme poverty. UNICEF will support national development policies of the Government and subnational capacity to address pressing issues: birth registration, undernutrition, vaccination, early education, developmental monitoring and the prevention of violence through better coordination of gender and culturally sensitive integrated services in early childhood development. School-readiness and children's inclusion, participation and completion of primary schooling will be promoted. Special attention will be paid to educational inclusion for indigenous children, particularly girls in rural areas, to the cultural relevance of curricula and to teaching methods.

**Programme component: Adolescent development and participation**

38. This component focuses on redressing gaps in public provision for adolescents and the promotion of adolescent participation and citizenship. In line with the National Development Plan of Mexico, UNICEF will promote the expansion of opportunities for positive adolescent development by aiming to increase adolescents' inclusion, participation and completion of quality education. Efforts will promote educational attainment and prevention of school dropout through the creation of school and community environments that are more inclusive and participatory. Expanding opportunities for adolescent girls and boys to be involved in school governance and their access to arts, culture and sports will be promoted. Emphasis will be given to fostering the resilience of adolescent girls and boys in the context of social exclusion, violence and exploitation. Strategies in these areas will consider the importance of preparing adolescents to prevent early pregnancy and realize their reproductive rights. Special attention will be paid to multiple deprivations, racism and discrimination affecting indigenous adolescents, and to the 2.2 million adolescent girls and boys who are not in school, of whom 41 per cent are indigenous. Harnessing the effective voice and engagement of adolescents in their communities and their nation as a resource for positive change will be facilitated through the use of new technologies.

**Programme component: Social and resource mobilization for the rights of children and adolescents**

39. Successful advocacy vis-à-vis relevant stakeholders and mobilization aimed at promoting social dialogue and cultural changes around child rights are the combined factors that will allow child rights to be at the core of public agendas. They require robust, visible and clear communication. For this reason, strong communication strategies will be established through media and other channels, including modalities to engage youth audiences in social dialogue.

40. Communication modalities will be essential for UNICEF to raise funds for the country programme, which will increasingly rely on local contributions. A strong fundraising and licensing programme will also be key to secure the funding needed to implement programmes for children. The local fundraising strategy will be to provide opportunities for the public and private sectors to contribute to the promotion of child rights in Mexico and beyond. Inclusion of Business Principles for Children's Rights within Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives will remain an important line of work for UNICEF.

**Programme component: Cross-sectoral**

41. This component will include all those activities related to programme management and operations support (cross-cutting functions, providing management oversight, operational support training, logistics, travel and other areas).

**Relationship to national priorities and the UNDAF**

42. The Government has defined five national targets within the National Development Plan 2013-2018.<sup>28</sup> The country programme will support national efforts in all of them by contributing to reducing disparities that affect the universal fulfilment of the rights of children and adolescents. At the same time, the country programme responds to the priorities derived from the recent Constitutional Reform on child rights matters, the government strategy aimed at reducing food insecurity in selected municipalities, the "Pacto por México" and the educational reform.

43. The programme supports the achievement of four of the six UNDAF priority cooperation areas: (i) equality, equity and social inclusion; (iv) citizen security, social cohesion and justice; (v) democratic governance; and (vi) alliance for development.

**Relationship to international priorities**

44. The country programme is based on the principles of the two human rights conventions cited above. It also incorporates key international priorities reflected in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals and discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. The country programme also contributes to the achievement of commitments included in the initiative Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed, through strategic alliances with the Government, civil society and the private sector. Given the refocus on equity foreseen for the next UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, the country programme will establish monitoring and analysis mechanisms using and producing highly disaggregated data and policy recommendations, in order to address different kinds of disparities affecting the fulfilment of children's rights.

45. The programme responds to the 2021 Education Targets, subscribed to in 2010 by Mexico within the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government,<sup>29</sup> and to the declaration of the 2008 inter-ministerial meeting for the prevention of HIV in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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<sup>28</sup> These are: (i) Mexico in Peace, (ii) An Inclusive Mexico, (iii) Mexico with Quality Education, (iv) Mexico with Prosperity, and (v) Mexico with Global Responsibility. <http://www.pnd.gob.mx>.

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.oei.es/metas2021>.

**Major partnerships**

46. UNICEF will play an active role in the UNCT through joint programming initiatives, and individual initiatives in partnership with other agencies. In the public sector, the main counterparts are the central government Ministries and agencies as well as subnational authorities and entities to support implementation of national policies and programmes with an equity focus. When appropriate, UNICEF will strengthen its advocacy efforts by joining forces with the National Network of Child Rights Organizations and civil society coalitions for children's rights. A range of strategic partners will continue to be a cornerstone of cooperation in Mexico, drawing on and adding value to the work of civil society, the private sector, academic institutions and think tanks, national and international non-governmental organizations, women's organizations, organizations of persons with disabilities, and community and faith-based organizations, both at national and subnational levels.

47. Partnerships with the private sector will remain a key strategy for leveraging and mobilizing resources. Recognizing the strong corporate sector, UNICEF will continue to expand its private sector fundraising and in-country partnership.

**Monitoring, evaluation and programme management**

48. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation, has overall responsibility for coordinating and monitoring the country programme. Programme monitoring will be reinforced to ensure progress towards planned results and to monitor the equity orientation of interventions, including a gender focus. Programme monitoring of subnational workplans will be revisited from an equity perspective. Annual reviews of the workplans, with key counterparts and rights-holders, and the midterm review in 2016 will serve these purposes.

49. Monitoring of the rights of children and adolescent will be at the core of the country programme, alongside analysis of the barriers and bottlenecks affecting their fulfilment, through the use of key tools, including DevInfo, for database management.

50. Strong evaluation capacity within the country continues to be an asset for UNICEF cooperation activities, not only locally but also regionally and internationally in terms of possible South-South cooperation actions.

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