



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/ICEF/P/L.1889(REC)
2 April 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
Programme Committee
1979 session

COUNTRY PROGRAMME PROFILE

Ecuador

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I. Basic data

UNICEF Category II GNP at market prices (1976): \$US 5,102.6 M
 Area (1977): 283,561 sq. km. GNP per capita (1976): \$US 698.4
 Population density: 27 per sq. km. GNP annual growth (1965-76): 4.8 per cent

| | 1975 | 1980 | 1985 | 1975-1980 | 1980-1985 |
|------------------|---|-------|-------|--|-----------|
| | Population (projections) (thousands) | | | Annual growth rate (projections) (per cent) | |
| Total population | 7 090 | 8 303 | 9 689 | 3.16 | 3.09 |
| Children | | | | | |
| 0-15 | 3 428 | 3 938 | 4 465 | 2.77 | 2.51 |
| 0- 6 | 1 717 | 1 934 | 2 192 | 2.38 | 2.51 |
| 7-12 | 1 202 | 1 394 | 1 573 | 2.97 | 2.41 |
| 13-15 | 509 | 610 | 701 | 3.60 | 2.78 |
| 16-18 | 459 | 514 | 650 | 3.30 | 3.67 |

Population breakdown (per cent)

| | | | |
|-------|------|------|------|
| Rural | 58.4 | 55.3 | 52.1 |
| Urban | 41.6 | 44.7 | 47.9 |

School enrolment ratios - first level gross (6-11)

1976
(per cent)

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Both sexes | 102 |
| Female | 101 |

Life expectancy at birth (years)

| | 1950-55 | 1975-80 | 1980-85 |
|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Male | 45.8 | 60.5 | 62.8 |
| Female | 48.7 | 63.7 | 65.9 |

Percentage of children in the age group 0-5

| | |
|---|-------|
| Within reach of basic health services | 18.3 |
| With access to safe water supply (urban/rural) | 83/13 |
| With some degree of malnutrition | 58.5 |
| With access to pre-natal care (public health services) | 33.0 |
| With supplementary feeding for malnourished, up to 5 years old | 31.4 |
| With attention during birth (public health services) | 24.5 |
| With sewage system (urban/rural) | 63/11 |

Comparison of school enrolment (urban and rural samples)

| | |
|---|----|
| Percentage of rural children entering first grade who enroll for <u>third</u> grade | 50 |
| Percentage of urban children entering first grade who reach <u>sixth</u> grade | 50 |

Problems regarding the needs and situation of children

Poverty, measured by income level, is widespread and affects 67 per cent of children in the urban sector and 75 per cent in rural areas.

Children at work comprise 14.8 per cent of the urban child population and 64.7 of the rural.

II. Programme co-operationA. Current (1978)

Latest commitment: \$1,335,000
for period 1973-1976
(E/ICEF/P/L.1613 and E/ICEF/P/L.1579)

| | 1978 call-forwards and expenditures | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| | Call-forwards | | Expenditure |
| | Planned | Actual | |
| | | (in thousands of \$US) | |
| From balance of earlier commitments on 1 January 1978 and 1978 Board commitments | 209 | 233 | 163 |
| <u>Breakdown by fields of assistance</u> | <u>Actual call-forwards</u> | | <u>Expenditure</u> |
| | (in thousands of \$US) | | |
| Social welfare services for children | 92 | | 59 |
| Formal education | 51 | | 28 |
| Planning and project support services | 90 | | 76 |
| Total | 233 | | 163 |

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, as part of its work in social mobilization, has implemented four projects directly related to pre-school children during 1978 - two each in marginal urban and rural areas. Social promoters, after receiving one-month training at the International Education Laboratory (LIDE), carried out project activities so as to complement other developmental activities involving community participation in selected communities. Three sewing workshops were equipped in Guayaquil; a community medical service was established in Quito; in rural areas, small-scale potable water projects were implemented, and local artisan workshops were encouraged to produce educational toys for pre-school children. Through this Ministry, UNICEF also helped sponsor two workshops for personnel concerned with child care and the protection of minors in order to introduce new types of activities involving parents and the community.

UNICEF, together with the National Planning Board, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, regional planning agencies, and representatives of the Rural Development Fund (FODERUMA) (sponsored by the Central Bank of Ecuador), sponsored three workshops for 100 participants to assist the National Planning Board in developing a preparatory methodology for its integrated rural development projects. Such projects include components of food production, health, non-formal education and appropriate technology, with particular attention to the needs of the pre-school child.

An inventory of potential uses of appropriate technology is being prepared by local-level technicians and social promoters from various public agencies in Ecuador. To assist their efforts, UNICEF provided consultancy services and fostered the interchange of experiences between Ecuadorean and Colombian professionals in the area of small-scale pisciculture.

Health workers attended two workshops organized for FODERUMA projects during 1978. Also, a multi-sectoral meeting dealing with primary health care (PHC) was held with the participation of the Ministry of Health, the National Planning Board, UNICEF and WHO/PAHO. A UNICEF-sponsored consultant aided the preparation of an intersectoral contract between the Ministry of Health and FODERUMA whereby health promoters, selected, paid (through FODERUMA loans) and partly supervised by the community, could deliver PHC services.

Research on the production, sale and use of iodized salt was conducted during 1978 in preparation for the national campaign for the eradication of endemic goitre. Results of this study are being presented to the National Planning Board and the Ministry of Health along with recommendations for future action.

Preparation for future UNICEF-assisted projects aimed at the inter-institutional programming of activities to benefit pre-school children in marginal urban areas has been promoted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the World Bank and UNDP. During November/December 1978, UNICEF collaborated with the Municipality of Guayaquil, the National Planning Board and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in the formation of a technical team at the city level in order to prepare for a workshop planned for early 1979 that will outline priority problems of children in slum areas and possible solutions.

During 1978, UNICEF also supported the implementation of ongoing projects and the preparation of new activities in Ecuador through arranging visits to similar projects in nearby countries. Provision was also made for printed information and production of audio-visual materials in Spanish to aid in the training of community-level workers, as well as short-term consultants' services.

II. Programme co-operation (cont'd.)

B. Past

Programme expenditure 1973-1977
(Year assistance first approved: 1949)

| | (in thousands of \$US) | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Child health | | |
| Basic child health | 449 | |
| Water supply | <u>35</u> | |
| Total child health | | 484 |
| Child nutrition | | 230 |
| Social welfare services for children | | 164 |
| Formal education | | 121 |
| Planning for children and youth | | 237 |
| Other | | <u>10</u> |
| Total | | 1 245 |

Integrated services for children

Activities aimed at improving the standard of living of indigenous groups in particular, and incorporating them into the national development process, were carried out through a rural development programme in the provinces of Cotopaxi, Bolívar and Los Ríos.

Efforts were directed towards the diversification and improvement of food production, horticulture, and animal husbandry, with the support of short-term FAO consultants.

UNICEF support to health-related activities included provision of supplies and equipment for hospitals, health centres and health stations; supplementary feeding as part of mother and child health services; installation of safe water systems; and promotion of environmental sanitation measures.

Basic education activities involved in-service teacher training; establishment of workshops and libraries; promotion of school vegetable gardens; and supplementary feeding programmes with WFP assistance.

The integrated services for children programme made some progress but this tended to be limited. Programme analysis has since determined that activities were not adequately co-ordinated and implemented as originally foreseen because of lack of counterpart funding and overly ambitious calling forward of supplies and equipment. In 1977, it was therefore decided to terminate assistance to this project, and UNICEF and the Government revised the plan of operations in order to ensure proper utilization of the equipment and of the funds on hand for new approaches to basic services.

It was agreed to initiate experimental projects in basic services with emphasis on primary health care, nutrition, appropriate technology and project support communications in order to identify new methods to meet the basic needs of children. To this effect, four demonstration centres (in Quito, Guayaquil, Parroquia Licto and Parroquia Santa Lucia) are being organized with family participation, especially in pre-school education. The main project activities accomplished during 1978 included the selection and installation of personnel; organization by LIDE of an appropriate training course; provision of equipment for the centres by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare; organization of community resource centres for learning jointly by UNICEF and LIDE; and preparation for periodic evaluations.

Slums and shanty towns - Guayaquil

Approximately 400,000 people reside in the Guayaquil slums in homes built from scrap materials. Of this number, only 33 per cent have potable water and 16.7 per cent have sewage facilities. Two years of drought that badly affected the rural population, linked with rising inflation, lack of capital, inadequate marketing facilities and a low level of agricultural technology, have fostered a steady stream of migrants to urban slum areas. As a result, the Government has taken a keen interest in the development of the marginal urban areas of the Guayaquil region, particularly the rehabilitation of its slum areas. A co-ordinating unit was established, with the co-operation of municipal, regional and national institutions, in order to design projects for the development of the marginal areas of Guayaquil, to negotiate financial contributions from national and international agencies, and to co-ordinate project execution.

UNICEF assistance to project activities included cash grants for salaries for the co-ordinating unit; training stipends; locally produced supplies and equipment for day-care centres; basic audio-visual and printing equipment for social communication activities; and transport for project supervision.

II. Programme co-operation (cont'd.)

C. Future (projections)

| Commitments and notings | Total | Probable yearly call-forwards | | | |
|--|--------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 |
| (in thousands of \$US) | | | | | |
| <u>Commitments</u> | | | | | |
| Balance of commitments for future call-forwards as of 1 January 1979 | 92 | 92 | | | |
| Proposed 1979 Board commitments | <u>530</u> | <u>400</u> | <u>130</u> | | |
| Subtotal | 622 | 492 | 130 | | |
| Projected future commitments to be prepared | <u>1 400</u> | <u>400</u> | <u>400</u> | <u>500</u> | <u>500</u> |
| Total | 2 022 | 492 | 530 | 500 | 500 |

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The trend of UNICEF assistance to Ecuador is based on recognition of the facts that the marginal rural population, which exceeds 2.5 million, lacks not only minimum services, but also the means to improve its productive capacity, and that almost 500,000 persons living in the rapidly expanding urban slums of Guayaquil and Quito are in need of basic services and employment programmes.

UNICEF assistance will complement the Government's efforts to provide solutions to the complex problems of marginality. This will be achieved by a multi-disciplinary approach involving the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and FODERUMA in the planning and delivery of basic services and programmes.

Specific actions to achieve this objective include:

(a) reinforcement and replication of the basic services approach introduced in 1978;

(b) strengthening of demonstration activities in basic services, particularly those emphasizing primary health care, appropriate technology and projects involving women in marginal rural areas; and

(c) investigation and action planning to promote institutional change to encourage intersectoral solutions to the problem of basic needs.

III. Recommendation to the Executive Board session 1979

| | | <u>Services for children</u> | | <u>Estimated Government expenditure</u> | <u>Agencies</u> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--------------------|
| <u>UNICEF assistance</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Probable yearly call-forwards</u> | | | |
| | | <u>1979</u> | <u>1980</u> | | |
| (in thousands of \$US) | | | | | |
| Commitment | 530 | 400 | 130 | 2 120 | UNDP World Bank |
| <u>Field of aid</u> | | <u>Health</u> | <u>Social welfare</u> | <u>Others</u> | |
| | | 150 | 300 | 80 | |
| <u>Type of aid</u> | <u>Supply and transport</u> | <u>Project support services</u> | | <u>Training grants, etc.</u> | |
| | 230 | 110 | | 190 | |

The Government of Ecuador, in an effort to resolve the problems affecting its child population, is encouraging locally devised solutions to satisfy local needs. In pursuit of this goal, UNICEF assistance has been requested during 1979 to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Health and FODERUMA in the provision of basic services, as well as to assist in the formulation of a three-year workplan for Ecuador (1980-1982) through a joint programming exercise.

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Proposed 1979 activities include:

(a) the extension of activities geared toward the pre-school child through workshops for personnel of pre-school institutions and for community-elected promoters; the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare will provide the necessary basic training in work methods, use of toys and materials and organization systems. Also, eight new pre-school child centres will be established with teacher and community support;

(b) demonstration primary health care activities that emphasize the involvement of women and that foster the use of appropriate technology in both rural and urban areas. UNICEF will assist PHC efforts in rural areas through provision of consultancy services and stipends to FODERUMA for two training courses for new promoters and for supervising rural health promoters. Assistance will also be provided for local production of health equipment for health posts as well as for a study of the model Centre for Multi-disciplinary Research in Rural Development in Colombia. Applied research and evaluation activities aimed at improving programme planning, monitoring services for the pre-school child and primary health care and consultancy services for project preparation, are additional areas for which UNICEF aid has been requested.

Government counterpart commitments in support of the above activities will come from the Central Bank of Ecuador, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, and the Municipality of Guayaquil.

In the Guayaquil slums, training will be given to health promoters and equipment will be provided to urban health posts. UNICEF will also support self-help workshops for the dissemination of appropriate technology and also for promotion of income-generating projects for women who have children.

Funds and assistance from the World Bank and UNDP are envisaged for urban services and development of appropriate rural technology respectively.

Proposed co-operation

The Executive Director recommends a commitment of \$530,000 from general resources in support of the above-mentioned activities for the period 1979-1980.
