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## United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

### Country programme document

#### Ecuador

##### *Summary*

The country programme document (CPD) for Ecuador is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$3,684,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$38,316,000 from other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period from March 2023 to December 2026.

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\* E/ICEF/2023/1.

Note: The present document was processed in its entirety by UNICEF.



## Programme rationale

1. Of the 17.7 million inhabitants in Ecuador as of 2021, 64 per cent live in urban areas and 33.8 per cent are children and adolescents.<sup>1</sup> Around 11.5 per cent of the population identifies as indigenous, 4.9 per cent as Montubio, 3.8 per cent as Afrodescendant and 78.4 per cent as mestizo.<sup>2</sup>

2. Since 2020, Ecuador has suffered a socioeconomic crisis and the impacts of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Children<sup>3</sup> and their families, especially indigenous peoples, Afrodescendants, migrants and refugees, and children with disabilities, face significant challenges. Income poverty rose from 25 per cent in 2019 to 27.7 per cent in 2021.<sup>4</sup> In 2021, 38.1 per cent of children lived in households in income poverty and 47.2 per cent in multidimensional poverty. This last indicator increases to 83.1, 69.2 and 46.2 percent for the indigenous peoples, Montubio and Afrodescendants, respectively.

3. Around 77 per cent of households with children reported having lower incomes in 2022 than before the pandemic, and 48 per cent reported having moderate or severe food insecurity,<sup>5</sup> highlighting the need for the social protection system to improve its shock-responsiveness capacities, reduce inclusion and exclusion errors, and strengthen service coordination.

4. As of 2021, the fertility rate for adolescent girls (aged 15–19 years) was 49.4 per 1,000 adolescents girls. The maternal mortality ratio rose from 37 per 100,000 live births in 2019 to 57.6 in 2020. Around 8.4 per cent of maternal deaths were among children under 19 years of age. In 2020, the neonatal, infant and child mortality rates were 4.6, 7.7 and 9.5 per 1,000 live births, respectively, and the rate of mother-to-child transmission of HIV was 2.8 per cent.<sup>6</sup> Polio vaccine coverage is below 50 per cent in 16 of the 24 provinces.<sup>7</sup> It is necessary to strengthen the health system, especially at the primary level, institutional capacities and equitable financing, particularly for rural areas and those with predominantly indigenous and Afrodescendent populations.

5. The prevalence of stunting in children aged 0–2 years increased from 21.9 per cent in 2006 to 27.2 per cent in 2018.<sup>8</sup> In 2018, 23 per cent of children under 5 years of age were affected by stunting, with 40.7 per cent being indigenous children. The lack of interinstitutional coordination has hampered efforts to adequately address the determinants of stunting. For instance, in 2019, only 67.8 per cent of households

<sup>1</sup> Population projections of the National Institute for Statistics and Censuses (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos, INEC).

<sup>2</sup> National Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment, INEC, Quito, 2021, <[www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/enemdu-anual/](http://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/enemdu-anual/)>, accessed on 1 November 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, the term children in the text refers to children and adolescents (aged 0–17 years).

<sup>4</sup> National Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment, INEC, Quito, 2019 and 2021, <[www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/enemdu-anual/](http://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/enemdu-anual/)>, accessed on 1 November 2022.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Children's Fund, *Survey on Households' Well-being in the Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Ecuador (Encovid-EC)*, UNICEF Ecuador, Quito, February 2022.

<sup>6</sup> Ministry of Public Health, Epidemiological Gazette, Quito, 2019, <[www.salud.gob.ec/gacetas-epidemiologicas-gaceta-general-2019/](http://www.salud.gob.ec/gacetas-epidemiologicas-gaceta-general-2019/)>, accessed on 1 November 2022.

<sup>7</sup> Ministry of Public Health, National Immunization Strategy Indicators Bulletin, Quito, April 2022, <[www.salud.gob.ec/boletin-de-indicadores-de-la-estrategia-nacional-de-inmunizacion/](http://www.salud.gob.ec/boletin-de-indicadores-de-la-estrategia-nacional-de-inmunizacion/)>, accessed on 1 November 2022.

<sup>8</sup> Living Conditions Survey, INEC, Quito, 2006, <<https://anda.inec.gob.ec/anda/index.php/catalog/358>>, accessed on 1 November 2022; National Health and Nutrition Survey, INEC, Quito, 2018, <<https://anda.inec.gob.ec/anda/index.php/catalog/891>>, accessed on 1 November 2022.

had access to safe drinking water.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, in 2018, 13 per cent of young children aged 0–5 years were overweight, with 35.4 per cent of children aged 5–11 years, and 29.6 per cent of adolescents aged 12–19 years.<sup>10</sup>

6. Suicide and mental, neurological and substance use disorders accounted for one fifth of years lived with disability by the Ecuadorian population aged 10–45 years.<sup>11</sup>

7. The impact of the pandemic exacerbated a pre-existing learning crisis. For two years, children aged 0–3 years did not receive early development and stimulation services. Only 27.7 per cent of children under 3 years of age participated in child development programmes, and 45.7 per cent of children aged 3–4 years in initial education.<sup>12</sup> There is a need to strengthen the coverage of these programmes and the availability of positive parenting programmes.

8. In 2020, the net attendance rate in basic education (ages 6–14 years) and in baccalaureate (ages 15–18 years) reached 95.5 per cent and 71.3 per cent, respectively. However, in rural areas and in indigenous populations, baccalaureate attendance rates were much lower, at 63.9 per cent and 58.9 per cent, respectively.<sup>13</sup> Factors that may affect access to education include a lack of economic resources, adolescent pregnancy, violence and child labour. Only 40 per cent of Venezuelan school-aged children in Ecuador are in the educational system.<sup>14</sup>

9. In 2019, 77.1 per cent of students in Grade 6 did not reach minimum competency levels in mathematics and 63.9 per cent in reading.<sup>15</sup> School closures aggravated learning loss, adding to the limited availability of levelling or remedial education programmes, informal education and alternative modalities. There is a need to strengthen early warning systems and insufficient tools for risk management, climate resilience, protection against discrimination, and violence prevention and response to ensure adequate referral services and articulation with protection services. The education system also lacks tools to address mental health issues. Teacher capacities in terms of knowledge and skills to provide psychosocial support are insufficient to provide learning adapted to the needs of students, particularly those who are most excluded.

10. Children and adolescents continue to be victims of violence and discrimination and are sometimes deprived of family care. Around 51 per cent of children aged 1–4 years suffered physical abuse by a member of their household.<sup>16</sup> Additionally, 17.3 per cent of girls and 27.5 per cent of boys aged 5–17 years experienced physical violence from their parents or caregivers.<sup>17</sup> Moreover, 9 per cent of migrant Venezuelan girls felt discriminated against in school. Six out of 10 women have

<sup>9</sup> National Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment, INEC, Quito, 2019, <[www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/enemdu-anual/](http://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/enemdu-anual/)>, accessed on 1 November 2022.

<sup>10</sup> National Health and Nutrition Survey, INEC, Quito, 2018, <<https://anda.inec.gob.ec/anda/index.php/catalog/891>>, accessed on 1 November 2022.

<sup>11</sup> Pan American Health Organization, *Mental Health Country Profile*, PAHO, Washington, D.C., 2020.

<sup>12</sup> Administrative registries of the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion and the Ministry of Education, and population projections of INEC, 2022.

<sup>13</sup> National Council for Intergenerational Equality, based on the National Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment, 2020.

<sup>14</sup> Ministry of Education, Open Data 2021–2022 School Year.

<sup>15</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), *Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study*, UNESCO, Paris, 2019.

<sup>16</sup> National Health and Nutrition Survey, INEC, Quito, 2018, <<https://anda.inec.gob.ec/anda/index.php/catalog/891>>, accessed on 1 November 2022.

<sup>17</sup> World Bank, *Challenges and Opportunities of Venezuelan Migration in Ecuador*, Quito, 2020.

experienced violence.<sup>18</sup> Child labour continues to affect 14.3 per cent of children aged 5–14 years in rural areas. There is a lack of a comprehensive protection system focused on children that would comply with international standards and have sufficient resources and capacity to prevent rights violations and protect all children in vulnerable situations, including children on the move.

11. According to the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code, the age of criminal responsibility is 12 years old.<sup>19</sup> Practices that normalize adolescents in conflict with the law being deprived of their liberty persist and require that institutional capacities, budgets and the availability of specialized judges be strengthened. Moreover, 2,226 children are in institutional care, 55.2 per cent of whom are under the age of 13 years.<sup>20</sup> The main causes of their institutionalization are neglect, mistreatment, sexual abuse and abandonment. There are weaknesses in alternative care services, including insufficiently trained staff and supply shortages.

12. In 2016, only 51.9 per cent of children had access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in their homes. This number drops to 20.9, 24.8 and 34.3 per cent, respectively, in indigenous, Amazonian and rural households.<sup>21</sup> In 2019, the quality of drinking water was still a challenge, and only 67.8 per cent of the population had access to safe drinking water.<sup>22</sup> Only 71 per cent of educational institutions receive safe drinking water.<sup>23</sup> In bilingual educational institutions, WASH services are more precarious. Insufficient access to safe WASH services, including menstrual hygiene and health services, affects educational continuity and increases the risks of sexual violence.

13. Ecuador faces risks that disrupt essential services as well as threats that include natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, landslides and volcanic eruptions, in addition to other risks of anthropogenic origin. Over the past 100 years, there have been 113 registered disasters affecting more than 5 million people.<sup>24</sup> Bottlenecks undermine effective institutional coordination for risk management and crisis preparedness. There is a lack of child-sensitive public policies, early warning systems at the municipal level and information on the threats, vulnerabilities and impacts of climate change on children and on the continuity of essential services.

14. Ecuador has the third-largest number of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the region. In 2021, one in five Venezuelans entering Ecuador was a child.<sup>25</sup> Children on the move can be exposed to risks of trafficking and smuggling, sexual exploitation and gender-based violence, and face barriers to accessing the education system and health, justice and social protection services.

15. The comparative advantage of UNICEF lies in its expertise in evidence-based advocacy, its technical capacity and its ability to promote synergies across sectors,

<sup>18</sup> Based on the National Survey on Family Relations and Gender-based Violence against Women, INEC, 2019.

<sup>19</sup> According to the Children and Adolescents' Code, adolescents are criminally unimputable and are not tried by ordinary criminal judges nor subject to criminal sanctions. However, from the age of 12 years, if they commit penal law offences, they are subject to socio-educational measures promoting responsibility and to the special jurisdiction of the Children and Adolescents' Code.

<sup>20</sup> Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, *Institutional Care Report*, June 2022.

<sup>21</sup> Molina, A., Pozo, M. and J. Serrano, *Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: measuring the SDGs in Ecuador*, INEC and UNICEF, Quito, 2018.

<sup>22</sup> National Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment, INEC, Quito, 2016 and 2019.

<sup>23</sup> Ministry of Education, *Results of the KOBO-WASH Survey*, 2020, Quito.

<sup>24</sup> Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, Emergency Events Database.

<sup>25</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, *Comprehensive Plan for the Care and Protection of the Venezuelan Population on the Move in Ecuador*, Quito, 2021.

build partnerships, convene society around children's issues and promote the exchange of best practices and innovation.

16. This programme is based on lessons learned. The evaluation of the country programme of cooperation, January 2019–February 2023 highlighted that (a) strengthening an intersectoral and comprehensive approach allows problems to be addressed more effectively; and (b) working at the subnational level allows persistent inequities to be addressed, partnership- building and improved emergency preparedness. The assessment of the migration crisis response indicates the need for a medium to long-term response and for building the necessary capacities.

## **Programme priorities and partnerships**

17. The country programme's objective is to support the Ecuadorian State and society in creating equitable opportunities for all children and adolescents, particularly those in situations of greater vulnerability and indigenous and Afrodescendent children, to develop fully, without discrimination or violence, in particular gender-based violence. UNICEF will work in the prioritized provinces of Chimborazo, Esmeraldas and Sucumbios, promoting intersectoral and comprehensive interventions in territories with large indigenous and Afrodescendent populations. UNICEF will also work in the Guayas and Pichincha provinces, strengthening local governments' capacities to promote the rights of children and adolescents. At the national level, UNICEF will develop interventions in public policies to promote and protect child rights, with a special focus on early childhood.

18. The country programme contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), 2022–2026, particularly to outcomes 1 (social protection and social services), 2 (sustainability and climate change) and 4 (inclusion and protection). Following the recommendations from the UNSDCF 2019–2022 evaluation, a prevention and preparedness approach will be reinforced.

19. In line with the latest observations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF will place special emphasis on restoring the specificity of the comprehensive child protection system and reducing violence against children. It will support the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by working to prevent gender-based violence, and those made by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by facilitating access to inclusive services.

20. Supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this country programme is aligned with the objectives of the National Development Plan 2021–2025:

- (a) to guarantee the right to comprehensive, free and quality health care;
- (b) to enhance citizens' capacities and promote innovative, inclusive and quality education at all levels;
- (c) to protect families, guarantee their rights and services, eradicate poverty and promote social inclusion, by incorporating gender-transformative and culturally-sensitive approaches that consider the situation of children with disabilities and children on the move.

21. Strategies that contribute to UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2022–2025 include the strengthening of:

- (a) gender-based violence prevention and response;

- (b) quality maternal and child services;
- (c) social protection and early childhood care systems;
- (d) menstrual health and hygiene;
- (e) child participation with a gender perspective;
- (f) gender equality in education.

22. UNICEF will promote public–private partnerships based on common values that generate positive outcomes for children. This includes interventions to generate behavioural changes, promoting positive parenting and good practices in health and nutrition and violence prevention. In addition, UNICEF will develop capacities in WASH services management with a focus on climate change adaptation and strengthening family-friendly corporate practices and policies.

### **Health and nutrition**

23. In the thematic area “every child survives and thrives”, with a focus on comprehensive care and contributing to UNSDCF outcome 1, the strategies under this programme component will contribute to:

- (a) empower children and their families to adopt healthy practices and access quality, equitable and inclusive health and nutrition services and counselling according to their age needs, including through the Creciendo con Nuestros Hijos (Growing up with Our Children) modality;
- (b) strengthen institutional capacities to deliver these services and ensure their resilience and responsiveness to emergencies and protracted crises;
- (c) improve the State’s capacities to generate and implement public policies on comprehensive health and nutrition that are child sensitive, including mental health and the prevention of adolescent pregnancy.

24. UNICEF will support the Ministry of Public Health to promote evidence-based healthy practices and develop behaviour change strategies on key health and nutrition issues that are gender transformative and strengthen inclusion and an intercultural focus, particularly in the prevention of adolescent pregnancy, in close alignment with planned interventions on early childhood development, under the component on education and early childhood development. With the decentralized autonomous governments, civil society and the private sector, UNICEF will strengthen sustainable spaces and mechanisms for citizen participation.

25. UNICEF will contribute to institutional capacity strengthening for the provision of services that will ensure operational efficiency. UNICEF will advocate and provide evidence to the State to guarantee the adequate provision of supplies and devices, implement public spaces that promote healthy living practices, and strengthen intersectoral and inter-institutional coordination, the monitoring of benefits and monitoring of the health of children and pregnant mothers, including their mental health. UNICEF will also provide assistance, including humanitarian assistance, tools and advocacy, to implement culturally relevant models that can respond to shocks and provide comprehensive and quality primary health care for children and pregnant mothers, particularly the most vulnerable.

26. UNICEF will advocate for policy frameworks, public policies, and comprehensive and evidence-based plans and strategies for the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality and malnutrition, the attention to mental health and the prevention and care of adolescent pregnancy. UNICEF will propose financing

mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of services and benefits, with an emphasis on primary health care, and to improve the quality and traceability of health and nutrition spending.

### **Education and early childhood development**

27. Supporting UNSDCF outcome 1, this programme component is aimed at improving access to and quality of early childhood development opportunities and relevant holistic learning and promoting meaningful child participation.

28. Through evidence generation, advocacy, evaluation and the design and monitoring of scalable pedagogical models, including intercultural and bilingual models, UNICEF will support the Government, academia and indigenous and Afrodescendent populations to strengthen the capacities of teachers and caregivers in the care of vulnerable children, their mental health and the development of transferable skills. UNICEF will also advocate for the equitable, needs-based assignment of teachers. UNICEF will support intersectoral coordination to promote positive parenting practices and prevent violence and adolescent pregnancy, with an intercultural and gender-based approach.

29. UNICEF will work with partners, including from the private sector, to develop innovative, inclusive and resilient learning models. These models will be aimed at increasing flexible access to education and strengthening relevant curricula and pedagogical approaches that facilitate learning acquisition and recovery and promote the development of fundamental and transferable skills, starting in early childhood. They will also promote the educational inclusion of students with special needs and children on the move.

30. UNICEF will advocate for key issues, including:

(a) the updating and implementation of the comprehensive public policy for early childhood with an intercultural, inclusive and gender-transformative approach;

(b) improving the education and child development infrastructure system and its resilience;

(c) improving the quality of early childhood development services and programmes through alternative and flexible, culturally-sensitive community-based care modalities that reach vulnerable populations.

31. Another priority will be to support the strengthening of the resilience and protective environment of homes, child development centres and schools, by implementing an early warning system to prevent school dropout and violence, and by promoting psychosocial support for teachers, parents and students.

32. UNICEF will support training programmes in environmental education, resilience and climate action and develop inclusive educational and levelling models focused on vulnerable children and those lagging behind in their education, including in bilingual intercultural education. UNICEF will promote emergency preparedness, contingency and response plans, psychosocial support methodologies and the reinforcement of WASH services in educational institutions, in partnership with the private sector.

### **Child protection**

33. Aligned with UNSDCF outcome 4, multisectoral strategies under this programme component will contribute to strengthening:

(a) prevention, response and monitoring capacities to address violence and other violations;

(b) alternative care mechanisms for children deprived of the right to live in a family;

(c) capacities to ensure the inclusion and non-discrimination of vulnerable children, including in emergencies.

34. UNICEF will drive behavioural change for the prevention of violence, including sexual violence, and promote the development of culturally adapted and gender-transformative prevention models.

35. Working across sectors, UNICEF will advocate for a comprehensive and child-friendly protection system and provide evidence generation, evaluation capacities and technical assistance to help to formulate and implement norms, policies and plans that ensure gender-transformative,<sup>26</sup> inclusive, equitable, intercultural and comprehensive child protection services and programmes. UNICEF will support the strengthening of the protection system's national and local institutional capacities, including systems for recording and monitoring cases of children on the move, children with disabilities or those in emergency or crisis situations, ensuring the regularization of unaccompanied and separated children. Coordination spaces will be created with providers of child protection services, including in early childhood, to guarantee specialized care, in partnership with the private sector.

36. Working with partners, UNICEF will develop interventions to prevent child and adolescent pregnancy and child labour.

37. Another priority will be promoting non-discrimination and inclusion practices, with an emphasis on indigenous and Afrodescendent children, children on the move, affected by or vulnerable to emergencies, with disabilities or from the LGBTIQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or questioning and other terms) community. UNICEF will promote meaningful child participation to strengthen violence prevention and response.

38. UNICEF will help the State to implement the national strategy for the deinstitutionalization of children and strengthen measures to promote family care. Alternatively, public policies regarding autonomy processes for adolescents without family reintegration prospects will be supported. UNICEF will advocate with the justice system to promote non-custodial measures for adolescents in conflict with the law. UNICEF will also support the strengthening of the structure and functioning of the specialized juvenile justice system promoting a restorative approach, including through the unification and harmonization of processes, procedures and case management models nationally, and the strengthening of linkages between ordinary and indigenous justice systems to guarantee the rights of indigenous children.

### **Water, sanitation and hygiene and climate resilience**

39. Contributing to UNSDCF outcomes 1 and 2, this programme component is aimed at strengthening institutional capacities, increasing access to and use of resilient WASH services and practices, and reinforcing climate change adaptation and risk reduction. To achieve results, UNICEF will work with key partners, including the private sector.

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<sup>26</sup> An approach that addresses the causes of gender inequalities and works to transform harmful gender roles, norms and power relations.



40. A priority will be to support the strengthening of child-sensitive and gender-transformative WASH and climate resilience policies, strategies, programmes and instruments that have an intercultural, inclusive and equity approach and consider children's voices. This includes supporting evidence generation, the definition of an institutional coordination framework and the strengthening of monitoring systems.

41. UNICEF will support budget analyses to ensure equitable and sustainable financing of WASH services; the design and implementation of the regulatory framework on WASH and climate change; and the improvement of menstrual hygiene and health coverage and supplies. UNICEF will strengthen the capacities of the drinking water management boards and explore alternative resilient water supply models to close coverage gaps, particularly in schools and child development centres.

42. UNICEF will work with the State to strengthen the emergency preparedness and response system, particularly its coordination and early warning system at the local level. With the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF will provide support to strengthen the leadership of children and young people as agents of change in the national climate agenda, incorporating the vision of indigenous peoples.

43. Efforts will be made to advocate for the promotion of education for sustainability, including aspects of climate change adaptation and risk management. Social and behaviour change interventions will be used to empower children and their families to adopt healthy WASH practices and value WASH services.

### **Social protection**

44. This programme component supports UNSDCF outcome 1 and is aimed at increasing access to social protection, particularly for vulnerable families, and strengthening national capacities to generate and use strong evidence.

45. UNICEF will support the strengthening of the Government's capacities to manage resources for children efficiently and effectively in a way that allows the country to respond to internal and external shocks. UNICEF will advocate for the cost-effectiveness of investing in children, generating partnerships, including with the private sector. UNICEF will support the Government in expanding coverage of social services and assistance, particularly to promote early childhood development and family-friendly policies, generating evidence to ensure the effective inclusion of excluded groups and designing management models to help to implement, monitor and evaluate social protection policies. UNICEF will also contribute to:

(a) strengthen the registry of beneficiaries and ensuring up-to-date information;

(b) strengthen citizen and media education on children's rights and citizen monitoring of the budget and service quality;

(c) develop capacities and tools within social protection services to effectively meet the demand.

46. Moreover, UNICEF will contribute to strengthen national institutional capacities to generate information and evidence to inform the design of child poverty reduction strategies. UNICEF will advocate for the strengthening of the regulatory framework to regulate statistics in the social sector and public finances, and will monitor child poverty.

### Programme effectiveness

47. This programme component will support the integrated and cross-sectoral implementation and management of the programme. It encompasses coordination and cross-cutting issues to:

(a) monitor and evaluate programme performance and the situation of children;

(b) raise funds and engage with the business sector;

(c) develop interdependent communication efforts. Evidence generation, research and monitoring and evaluation will help to inform policy and target programmes to ensure that they benefit the most vulnerable children. Additionally, UNICEF will continue to be an active participant of United Nations reform initiatives, including the Business Operations Strategy, implement the mutual recognition and proactively respond to the common back office requirements.

48. Communication and advocacy strategies will raise awareness, mobilize society and decision makers, as well as adolescents, as agents of change and contribute to positioning the rights of children, particularly the most vulnerable, on the public and political agendas with a view to adopting public policies for the benefit of children and amplifying children's voices.

### 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>
Health and nutrition	640	6 700	7 340
Education and early childhood development	600	6 736	7 336
Child protection	670	8 080	8 750
Water, sanitation and hygiene and climate resilience	530	6 000	6 530
Social protection	680	7 000	7 680
Programme effectiveness	564	3 800	4 364
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 684</b>	<b>38 316</b>	<b>42 000</b>

### Programme and risk management

49. This country programme document summarizes the contributions of UNICEF to national results and is the principal mechanism for accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. The responsibilities and accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels are defined in the policies and procedures regarding the organization's programmes and operations.

50. UNICEF will monitor programme and management indicators to undertake timely corrective action in the budget and programme implementation and identify opportunities that can contribute to the achievement of results. This includes the

monitoring of changes and government initiatives, and entry points to boost the well-being of children faced with the impacts of humanitarian situations and crises.

51. Risk analysis will continuously inform the programme and its strategies. Risks include socioeconomic crises, migration crises, natural and anthropogenic disasters, and a lack of timely, relevant and quality information to inform decisions. Early warning mechanisms and enterprise risk management tools will serve to mitigate risks, track fundraising trends and assess the impact of emergencies on the programme.

## **Monitoring, learning and evaluation**

52. UNICEF will support the strengthening of national and subnational capacities to generate and use timely, quality data that is disaggregated by gender, ethnicity and location, wherever possible, to monitor the realization of children's rights, reduce disparities and remove bottlenecks.

53. Efforts will focus on:

- (a) monitoring of programmatic results, including those of UNSDCF, through periodically collected and systematically analysed data;
- (b) monitoring of the situation of children through information collected from government counterparts, such as the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses and key institutions, records of implementing partners, and surveys and exercises that generate reliable evidence on the situation of children, especially in early childhood, and to assess the impacts of crises;
- (c) field visits, reports from counterparts, surveys and inputs from affected populations;
- (d) evaluation of UNICEF and national interventions.

## Annex

## Results and resources framework

## Ecuador – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, March 2023–December 2026

<b>Convention on the Rights of the Child:</b> Articles 1–42
<b>National priorities:</b> National Development Plan: Objectives 5–7, 11–14, 16; Sustainable Development Goals: 1–6, 10–11, 13, 16–17
<b>United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) outcomes involving UNICEF:</b> 1, 2, 4
<b>UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 Goal Areas:</b> 1–5

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (M)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Main partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RO), other resources (OR) (in Thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
1. By 2026, people, considering their age, sex, gender identity, ethnic self-identification and diversity, particularly those in vulnerable situations and in emergency contexts, have increased equal and equitable access to social protection and quality social services, including food, health, education,	1. By 2026, more pregnant women, children and adolescents and their families, especially those in situations of greater vulnerability, have access to quality, equitable, inclusive, gender-transformative and culturally-appropriate health and nutrition services, and implement practices that enable the exercise of their right to health and nutrition.	Prevalence of stunting in children aged 0–2 years B: 27.2% (2018) T: 21.2%	National Health and Nutrition Survey (Encuesta Nacional de Salud y Nutrición, ENSANUT), National Child Malnutrition Survey, Statistical Register of General Deaths and Statistical Register of Live Births by the National Institute for Statistics and Censuses (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos, INEC)	1.1. More pregnant women, children, adolescents, their families and communities are empowered to demand their rights to health and nutrition and carry out practices for their fulfilment.  1.2. The State has strengthened capacities to provide quality, accessible, equitable and universal health and nutrition services, with cultural relevance	Ministry of Public Health (Ministerio de Salud Pública, MSP)  Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (Ministerio de Inclusión Económica y Social, MIES)  Ministry of Economy and Finance  Technical Secretariat Ecuador Grows Without Child Malnutrition  INEC  Decentralized autonomous governments	640	6 700	7 340
		Maternal death ration per 100,000 live births B: 57.6 (2020) T: 38.4						
		Adolescent pregnancy birth rate per 1,000 adolescents (aged 15–19 years) B: 54.6 (2020) T: 39.4						

water, sanitation and hygiene, housing, care and culture.				<p>and a gender focus, to pregnant women, children, adolescents and their families.</p> <p>1.3. The State has improved capacities to adopt and implement evidence-based public policies aimed at the comprehensive prevention, promotion and cost-effective care of health and nutrition, dedicating adequate resources and using a life-course, gender and intercultural approach.</p>	<p>National Planning Secretariat (Secretaría Nacional de Planificación, SNP)</p> <p>United Nations (Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/ World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Programme, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), among others)</p> <p>Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)</p> <p>Academia</p> <p>Private sector</p>			
	<p>2. By 2026, more children and adolescents benefit in a timely manner from resilient, inclusive and quality early child development and educational opportunities and services adapted to their contexts.</p>	<p>Percentage of children aged 0–2 years in early child development services</p> <p>B: 25.1% (2022) T: 32%</p>	<p>Gross baccalaureate enrolment rate</p> <p>B: 87.4% (2020) T: 89.1%</p>	<p>Integrated Information System Registry by MIES</p> <p>Master Archive of Educational Institutions</p> <p>Population projections by INEC</p>	<p>2.1. The educational community has improved capacities to provide quality services with an intercultural and gender approach and to improve parenting practices.</p> <p>2.2. The education system has improved capacities to ensure that children and adolescents enter</p>	<p>Ministry of Education (Ministerio de Educación, MINEDUC)</p> <p>MSP</p> <p>MIES</p> <p>Decentralized autonomous governments</p> <p>SNP</p> <p>Inter-American Development Bank</p> <p>World Bank</p> <p>United Nations (United Nations Educational, Scientific and</p>	600	6 736

				<p>in a timely manner and remain in the system.</p> <p>2.3. The education system has greater capacities to provide children and adolescents with a desirable level of holistic, relevant and culturally acceptable learning, with adequate emergency preparedness.</p> <p>2.4. More children and adolescents have systematized spaces and mechanisms for meaningful participation.</p>	<p>Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNFPA)</p> <p>NGOs</p> <p>Private sector</p> <p>Academia</p>			
4. By 2026, the State improves public management and increases the protection and guarantee of rights, gender equality and social cohesion, while reducing threats to human security and promoting the eradication of all forms of violence.	3. By 2026, more children and adolescents live in protective environments that are free from violence, including gender-based violence, and discrimination, and that promote family care.	<p>Percentage of children aged 0–4 years who received physical punishment</p> <p>B: 51% (2018) T: 25%</p> <p>Percentage of children in alternative care compared to all those deprived of a family environment</p> <p>B: 43.3% (2022) T: 70%</p>	<p>ENSANUT</p> <p>National Child Malnutrition Survey</p> <p>MIES</p>	<p>3.1. The State and society have greater capacities to prevent and respond to child rights violation, including violence against children and adolescents, especially sexual and gender-based violence.</p> <p>3.2. The State has strengthened alternative response mechanisms for the care of</p>	<p>MIES</p> <p>Secretariat for Human Rights</p> <p>SNP</p> <p>Judiciary</p> <p>National Council for Intergenerational Equality</p> <p>National Council for Disability Equality</p> <p>Ombudsperson’s Office</p> <p>MINEDUC</p> <p>MSP</p>	670	8 080	8 750

				<p>children deprived of their right to live in a family and community.</p> <p>3.3. The State and society have greater capacity to guarantee inclusion and non-discrimination in comprehensive protection services for vulnerable children, including in emergencies.</p>	<p>National Service for Comprehensive Care for Persons Deprived of Liberty and Juvenile Offenders</p> <p>United Nations (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), UNHCR, IOM, UNFPA, among others)</p> <p>NGOs</p> <p>Private sector</p> <p>Academia</p>			
<p>2. By 2026, the State and society advance towards the ecological transition and towards a sustainable and inclusive economy that is decarbonized and resilient to the effects of climate change, conserving biodiversity, avoiding land degradation and ecosystem pollution, with a focus on gender, inclusion and diversity.</p>	<p>4. By 2026, more children and adolescents benefit from quality and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices, services and supplies, and live, grow and learn in an environment that is safer, cleaner and more resilient to the effects of climate change.</p>	<p>Proportion of the population with safely managed drinking water services</p> <p>B: 67.8% (2019) T: 75%</p>	<p>National Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment by INEC</p>	<p>4.1. Institutional capacities at the national and local levels in sectors related to climate change adaptation, risk reduction and WASH services are strengthened to design, enable and finance equitable, inclusive, gender-transformative and child-sensitive policies and programmes.</p> <p>4.2. More children and adolescents, their families and communities have developed age-appropriate and gender-sensitive hygiene practices, promoting climate action and sustainable development.</p>	<p>Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition</p> <p>MINEDUC</p> <p>MSP</p> <p>INEC</p> <p>SNP</p> <p>Water Regulation and Control Agency</p> <p>National Agency for Regulation, Control and Health Surveillance</p> <p>Private sector</p> <p>Coalition for Water Security</p> <p>Technical Table on Gender and Climate Change</p> <p>United Nations (mainly UNHCR, IOM, PAHO/WHO, UNESCO, UNDP)</p>	530	6 000	6 530
		<p>Number of deaths, disappearances and affected population attributable to disasters per 100,000 people</p> <p>B: 3 389 (2021) T: N/A</p>	<p>Directorate of Monitoring of Adverse Events of the National Service of Risk and Emergency Management</p>					

					Decentralized autonomous governments Youth organizations Private sector			
1. By 2026, people, considering their age, sex, gender identity, ethnic self-identification and diversity, particularly those in vulnerable situations and in emergency contexts, have increased equal and equitable access to social protection and quality social services, including food, health, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, housing, care and culture.	5. By 2026, more children and adolescents and their families, particularly the most vulnerable, are covered by an equitable and resilient social protection system that contributes to the reduction of poverty and inequality, and to the increase of productivity.	Number of children living in households in situations of (a) income poverty and (b) multidimensional poverty  (a) B: 2 287 549 (2021) T: 1 999 780  (b) B: 2 178 332 (2021) T: 1 890 940	National Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment by INEC	5.1. The social protection system is strengthened in the articulation of services, its coverage capacity, efficient management, and the effective inclusion of vulnerable groups, especially children, adolescents and their families	MIES  MINEDUC  MSP  Secretariat for Human Rights  INEC  Private sector  SNP  United Nations (UNHCR, World Food Programme, UNFPA, UNDP, UN-Women, among others)  World Bank  International Monetary Fund  Inter-American Development Bank  Andean Development Corporation  NGOs  Academia	680	7 000	7 680
		The extent to which the measurement, analysis or technical assistance has informed programmes and policies to reduce child poverty  B: There is no measurement of child poverty (monetary or multidimensional). T: Measurement of child poverty	Reports, studies	5.2. National capacities are strengthened to generate quality evidence and use it to inform policy formulation, planning, budgeting and the design of strategies aimed at reducing the deprivation faced by children and their families, using a life cycle approach				



		informs guidance documents						
6. Programme effectiveness						564	3 800	4 364
<b>Total resources</b>						<b>3 684</b>	<b>38 316</b>	<b>42 000</b>