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United Nations International Children
Emergency Fund

REDUCING POVERTY AND INEQUALITY THROUGH INVESTMENTS IN CHILDREN – EXPERIENCES FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Abstract

Latin American and Caribbean countries are taking concrete measures to break intergenerational cycles of poverty, and contribute to sustained and inclusive development. The event will outline efforts by Ecuador and other Latin American and Caribbean countries to equalize opportunities through targeted investments in children. Participants will discuss innovative regional initiatives to improve transparency and to monitor investments and results for children. The event will be an opportunity for Ecuador and the region to demonstrate how these approaches can serve as implementation tools for the wider FFD agenda.

Background and rationale

Adequate, effective and equitable investment in vulnerable children can break intergenerational cycles of poverty that perpetuate the uneven distribution of opportunities in a nation's population. These investments are also a prerequisite for sustained, inclusive economic growth, social development, and for productive and cohesive societies in the future.

The event will outline efforts by Latin American and Caribbean countries to improve investments and ultimately results for children. Measuring a country's investment in children is a first step in improving outcomes for future generations. It is also crucial to monitor whether the services and efforts are reaching the targeted population and having a positive impact, in other words whether they are equitable and effective. Together this information provides the building blocks of better, evidence-based public policy choices and effective budget planning. Measures to support accountability, transparency and public participation can also lead to productive dialogue between local and national governments and the populations they serve, creating a virtuous cycle of improving outcomes.

In Latin America and the Caribbean most governments have mechanisms in place to monitor investment in children within the public budget and expenditure accounts using national systems. They are also able to track impacts on multiple dimensions of child poverty. Innovative methods to enhance transparency and participation are also in use, such as online budgets and management for results to support public oversight and dialogue.



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The Government of Ecuador, hosted a Latin American and the Caribbean regional seminar on Investment in childhood and adolescence, in Quito on 25-26 May 2015, where 21 LAC countries shared their experiences. This was the third of a series of such seminars, previously held in Bogota in 2013 and Lima in 2014. The most recent event explored how LAC could further advance these positive approaches to improving public investment in children's rights in the context of the proposed SDGs and feed into the next round of international commitments around Financing for Development. These experiences are also in line with the UN Human Rights Council resolution entitled Towards Better Investment in the Rights of the Child (A/HRC/28/L.28) of 24 March 2015.

This side event in Addis will be an opportunity for Ecuador and the region to share experiences on measuring public investment in children and demonstrate how these approaches can serve as implementation tools for FFD commitments. The event will be convened by the Government of Ecuador with the support of UNICEF.

Date and time

Tuesday 14 July 2015

Lunch time (1.15 pm – 2.45 pm)

Venue

Hotel Radisson BLU, Addis Ababa

Meeting rooms Warka 1 + 2 (65 seats)

Programme

Participants

The panel will highlight relevant and successful experiences of Ecuador and another three to four Latin American and Caribbean countries in measuring and monitoring investment in children. The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the UN and UNICEF are reaching out to potential panelist and will be in a position to confirm shortly.

Format of the event

Ecuador and two to three Latin American and Caribbean countries will share their experiences in measuring public investment in children and demonstrate how these approaches can serve as implementation tools for FFD commitments.

Talk show mode. Opening words by UNICEF DED Ms. Yoka Brandt. Panelists will be given some time to introduce the most salient features of their work. Moderator will follow up with a few



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questions (to be formulated and shared in advance to allow for preparation) to all panelists in the style of a talk show before opening the floor for the public.

Moderator

ECLAC (TBC)

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