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Draft country programme document***

Serbia

Summary

The draft country programme document (CPD) for Serbia is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and comments. The Executive Board is requested to approve the aggregate indicative budget of \$3,750,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$23,500,000 from other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2011 to 2015.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

** E/ICEF/2010/8.

*** 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 annual session of the Executive Board. The revised CPD will then be presented to the Executive Board for approval at the second regular session of 2010.



*Basic data[†]**(2008, unless otherwise stated)*

Child population (millions, under 18 years)	2.2
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	7
Underweight (% , moderate and severe, 2005)	1 ^a
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	13
Primary school enrolment (% net, male/female, 2007)	95/95
Survival rate to last primary grade (%)	.. ^b
Use of improved drinking water sources (% , 2006)	99
Use of improved sanitation facilities (% , 2006)	92
Adult HIV prevalence rate (% , 2007)	0.1
Child labour (% , children 5-14 years old, 2005)	4
GNI per capita (US\$)	6 440
One-year-olds immunized with DPT3 (%)	95
One-year-olds immunized with measles vaccine (%)	92

[†] All data refer to the territory of the Republic of Serbia, excluding Kosovo. More comprehensive country data on children and women can be found at www.childinfo.org.

^a World Health Organization child growth standard.

^b The primary school completion rate is 92% from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2005, covering children through grade 8, the end of compulsory education in Serbia.

Summary of the situation of children and women

1. Serbia enjoyed a stable and relatively strong growth rate from 2002 through mid-2008. The prospect of integration into the European Union (EU) is driving the comprehensive reforms of the economic and social sectors initiated at the beginning of the decade. The Government succeeded in improving macroeconomic stability, restructuring the economy and re-establishing many social provisions that had severely deteriorated during the 1990s. Democracy and the rule of law have been consolidated, with the adoption of new parliamentary rules of procedure, broad reform of the judiciary, and the establishment of independent institutions, including an Ombudsman, an Anti-Corruption Agency, and the Supreme Audit Institution.

2. Poverty levels were halved between 2002 and 2007, dropping from 14.7 to 7.7 per cent.¹ While poverty reduction was achieved without raising levels of inequality,² children under 14 years continue to have above-average poverty indexes and represent the population group with the lowest level of poverty reduction over this period.³

3. The global economic and financial crisis is having a far-reaching impact on the country. Economic growth declined to 4 per cent, with projections of a slow recovery in 2010 and 2011. The Government negotiated a non-precautionary standby agreement with the International Monetary Fund in March 2009, securing a €3 billion loan to support the balance of payments. The agreement allows a budget deficit of 4 per cent of the gross domestic product, but commits the authorities to

¹ Republican Statistical Office (RSO), Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS), 2007.

² The Gini coefficient was 29.3 in 2002 and 29.7 in 2007. RSO, LSMS, 2007.

³ www.prsp.gov.rs.

significant fiscal tightening, including substantial cuts in public expenditure. Despite the crisis, the overall levels of social spending and social transfers have been safeguarded. Poverty, nevertheless, has increased since the crisis began, and the existing safety nets are far from sufficient.

4. A 2009 analysis of the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Children⁴ is showing that much progress has been made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the areas of health, reform of social services, and development of the normative framework. The under-five mortality rate has fallen to 7 deaths per 1,000 live births,⁵ and the infant mortality rate decreased from 10.6 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 6.7 in 2008. While national-level trends are positive, they hide disparities, notably those affecting the Roma minority, which has an under-five mortality rate three times higher than that of the general population.⁶

5. The economic crisis has exacerbated existing disparities in the country, making the situation of the already vulnerable even more precarious. The situation of Roma is particularly critical: nearly 50 per cent of Roma families are living below the poverty line and unemployment rates among Roma are estimated at 60 per cent.⁷ Geographic disparities are also significant, between rural and urban and among municipalities: for example, the poverty rate is 9.8 per cent in rural areas but 4.3 per cent in urban areas, and municipalities in South Serbia are among the poorest in the country.⁸ Compounding this is the paucity of opportunities or means for the marginalized to influence decisions that could improve their situation. The 2008/2009 presidency by Serbia of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 brought greater attention and commitment to Roma inclusion. At the same time, the Serbia EU integration process is pushing social inclusion higher up the Government agenda. This effort will further intensify when Serbia becomes a candidate country and drafts the Joint Inclusion Memorandum in cooperation with the EU.

6. Education coverage has remained high, but the (gross) completion rates are much lower for selected groups, namely, children who are Roma (28 per cent), poor (77 per cent) and rural (89 per cent). Data are not available for net completion. Quality remains a challenge, with learning achievement falling at the bottom of the PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) scale; resulting in a learning deficit equal to 2-3 years of education.⁹ Attendance rates for the newly established obligatory year of pre-school for 6-year-olds are at 98 per cent,¹⁰ but less than 50 per cent among Roma and rural children. The new Law on Education has strong provisions aimed at improving the inclusiveness and quality of education, critical to ensuring that those outside the system are brought in.

⁴ Committee on the Rights of the Child, National Plan of Action for Children Analysis, October 2009.

⁵ There were 7 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2008 versus 12.7 in 2000. RSO, Vital Statistics.

⁶ UNICEF, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2005. Note: All data relating to Roma population from MICS refer only to Roma living in Roma settlements.

⁷ Roma Information Centre, Roma at National Employment Service, October 2006.

⁸ RSO, LSMS, 2007.

⁹ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Programme for International Student Assessment Study, 2006.

¹⁰ 2006/2007 school year. RSO, LSMS, 2007.

7. Serbian young people, whose childhoods were largely neglected during the period of conflict and isolation, continue to suffer the consequences today. These include males, who often adopt cultural values perpetuating aggressive behaviour and tolerating violence. From 2005 to 2008, the number and severity of reported crimes committed by juveniles have risen, particularly crimes involving theft and violence.¹¹ There are increasing trends of adolescent risk-taking behaviour, including consumption of alcohol, and early, unsafe sexual activity that contributes to a teenage pregnancy rate of 15.6.¹² An estimated 16 per cent of adolescents aged 15-18 are out of school (13 per cent of girls and 20 per cent of boys). Among Roma, the situation is much worse: 94 per cent of girls and 86 per cent of boys are out of school.¹³ Adolescents lack tailored services, particularly in the areas of health and education, and have limited opportunities for recreation and leisure. However, the Government has begun to respond to their needs. The Government adopted a National Youth Strategy in 2008 and an Action Plan in 2009, and established a Ministry of Youth and Sport as well as youth offices in 100 municipalities that provide a starting point to support youth in exercising their rights.

8. As for children aged 0-6, national understanding and prioritization of early childhood development as a critical contribution to building the country's social capital is only beginning to emerge. There are still no integrated early childhood development (ECD) services. Parenting has been largely ignored by system interventions, and as a result parents have poor awareness of the importance of the early years and limited knowledge of how to support the development of young children.¹⁴ Traditional gender roles are pronounced, as 76 per cent of young men believe that caring for children is the responsibility of mothers.¹⁵ Preschool participation is low, with only 40 per cent of the general population sending children aged 3-5 to preschool, with the percentage dropping to less than 10 per cent for Roma and rural children.¹⁶

9. Concerning post-natal care: Serbian hospitals currently do not comply with baby-friendly hospital standards; new mothers commonly express dissatisfaction with the attitudes and behaviours of medical staff; and only 15 per cent of mothers practice exclusive breastfeeding.

10. Violence continues to be a challenge, including within the family environment. Disciplining of children by physical or psychological punishment is practiced on 73 per cent of children aged 2-14, with boys more likely than girls to be exposed to severe forms of punishment. An estimated 37 per cent of young school children report peer violence, and this percentage rises to 55 among children in higher grades. The Committee on the Rights of the Child in its 2008 Concluding Observations recommended that the Government take measures to end all violence against children. The 2007 Concluding Observations of the Committee on the

¹¹ RSO, 2008.

¹² The rate is defined as 1 per 1,000 adolescents aged 15 to 19. National Institute for Public Health, 2007.

¹³ UNICEF, MICS, 2005.

¹⁴ UNICEF, MICS, 2005.

¹⁵ CARE and International Centre for Research on Women, "The Initiative of Young Men for Prevention of Violence Based on Gender in the Northwestern Balkans Programme", 2009 (not published).

¹⁶ RSO, LSMS, 2007.

Elimination of Discrimination against Women also emphasized combating domestic violence as a continuing challenge to be addressed.

11. The reforms of social services have benefited children without parental care. However, children with severe disabilities are still routinely placed in institutional care. And those living in families often remain isolated and excluded from their communities. A lack of community services and support for disabled children and their families further reinforces exclusionary practices.

12. The progress made by Serbia in the formation of democratic institutions has included establishing building blocks for a child rights infrastructure, such as the Deputy Ombudsman Office in 2008, the National Council on Child Rights in 2002 and a specific Parliamentary body on child rights, created in 2008. The legislative framework has been largely aligned with international human rights standards. However, the requisite adjustments to the allocations of resources, standards for services and professionals, and accountability mechanisms are all lagging behind. The adoption in 2009 of a regulatory framework for non-governmental organizations was an important step forward in acknowledging the value of civil society, although there are still no institutional mechanisms to facilitate exchange between government and civil society. Moreover, civil society remains fragmented and unable to systematically influence policy-making at national or local levels. Of particular concern is the lack of disaggregated data and specific indicators to monitor the impact of system reforms.

Key results and lessons learned from previous cooperation, 2005-2010

Key results achieved

13. Government commitment to the reform of the social welfare system, including the transformation of social services and residential care institutions, is producing tangible results. These have become a model for other countries in the region, including Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, where similar transformation plans are in place. Standards and quality assurance measures for community services have been introduced, and a case management approach is reflected in the draft social welfare law. There has been a steady reduction of the number of children placed in residential care institutions. The ratio of children in institutional versus foster care has been reversed from 2:1 to 1:2.¹⁷

14. Serbia made significant progress in establishing a juvenile justice system, adopting a Law on Juvenile Justice in 2006 in line with international standards. Specialized training for judges, prosecutors and the police on juvenile offenders and minors-victims has been mainstreamed, in line with the law. This experience has been recognized and shared within the region as good practice. With the creation of an intersectoral Juvenile Justice Council in 2009, further reforms needed for full implementation of the diversion provisions of the law will be set in motion.

15. A regulatory framework to prevent and protect children from violence has been adopted. This was followed by the specialized protocols for key sectors,

¹⁷ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Analytical Department, Draft master plan on the transformation of residential institutions.

notably health, social welfare, justice and education. In each of these sectors, capacity development of professionals has been undertaken. The majority of advances can be noted in the education system, where implementation of the Schools without Violence standards have led to improved reporting of violence and greater use of non-violent conflict resolution. The success of this approach has allowed the Ministry of Education to leverage further support from a World Bank programme.

16. The 2009 review of the National Plan of Action for Children found that the plan had significant influence on the development of key policies, notably those related to protection. In selected municipalities, the plan has also been successfully translated into local plans of action to develop participatory planning processes that involve local authorities, civic organizations and children themselves. UNICEF will advocate for this approach to be sustained and championed nationwide as the core component of “municipalities fit for children”.

17. A number of successful partnerships were initiated and have flourished during the country programme. Notable among these is the partnership with the private sector supporting Schools without Violence, which has grown from being implemented in 4 primary schools in 2005 to 183 currently, with full funding achieved through local resource mobilization. Partnership with the media has also evolved, with ethical standards on children included in the journalists’ code of conduct.

18. Partnership with newly established independent institutions — the Deputy Ombudsman for Children and a Parliamentary Working Group on Children — began only at the end of the country programme, but has already demonstrated positive impact. It is likely that the Parliamentary Working Group will be established by law, with more systematic attention given to children by Parliament.

Lessons learned

19. Strengthening accountability both inside and outside the formal system is emerging as a strategic area of focus. At the request of the Government, the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, which was taken over by the Government in 2002, was evaluated in 2009. Concerted pressure from mothers’ groups pushed the Government to take this action, demonstrating the potential influence of civil society to demand quality services and hold the system accountable. The evaluation revealed that the standards are not met in most baby-friendly hospitals and that there is no health system oversight of compliance. Similarly, a formal government review of the child care system reform in 2009 reconfirmed that accountability mechanisms are needed both within and outside the social welfare system. UNICEF has been recognized as playing a catalytic role in supporting the Government to strengthen its quality assurance systems and in brokering partnerships to reinforce independent monitoring of results for all children.

20. The need for greater coordination among the sectors having responsibility for children has been documented in two recent evaluations of the work of UNICEF Serbia in the areas of juvenile justice and schools without violence. Both studies found that without systematic case conferencing, referral and coordinated follow-up among health, education, social welfare and justice professionals, vulnerable children slip through the cracks of the system. The need for greater coordination has also been recognized by the Government as a critical shortcoming which must be

addressed if system reforms are to have a tangible impact on children. UNICEF has been sought to play a convening role in the establishment and strengthening of intersectoral mechanisms for coordination, be they related to policy and planning at the national level or service delivery at the local level.

21. UNICEF Serbia has been able to influence national policies and programmes through small-scale modelling of innovative approaches. The 2009 Law on Education mainstreams good-practice modelling in active learning and violence prevention, whereas the draft Social Welfare Law has incorporated recommendations generated from UNICEF engagement in child care reform. Experience has shown that modelling is most likely to influence policies when it is: (a) designed and monitored with the maximum engagement of policymakers; (b) directly linked to implementation of national priorities; and (c) adequately documented and communicated, with technical support provided for translating practice into policy.

The country programme, 2011-2015

22. The CPD was developed in conjunction with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) preparation, beginning with a Common Country Assessment and including a prioritization workshop with the Government of Serbia in November 2009. The CPD development further benefited from bilateral consultations with key partners and stakeholders, within and outside of Government. These consultations helped to validate the future role of UNICEF and further clarify and define the country programme components, ensuring that they are strategic and complement other initiatives and partnerships planned by the Government. The CPD is additionally informed by the 2008 Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and the 2007 Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

23. The draft country programme document provides a financial framework for UNICEF cooperation in Serbia, including Kosovo. UNICEF activities in Kosovo are being planned and implemented in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Summary budget table*

<i>Programme</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Systems-strengthening for social inclusion	1 375	13 500	14 875
Social accountability for child rights	875	8 000	8 875
Cross-sectoral	1 500	2 000	3 500
Total	3 750	23 500	27 250

* Other resources requirements for UNICEF activities in Kosovo will be provided separately.

Programme components results and strategies

24. The overall goal of the country programme is to support national efforts towards social inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized families and children, in line with international human and child rights standards and national sustainable

development and inclusion strategies. As data clearly demonstrate, the populations who are already or likely to be excluded include those living below the poverty line, the Roma minority, children with disabilities, and children in rural areas. Also vulnerable are most-at-risk adolescents and other children whose rights are systematically violated. The key results of the programme by the end of 2015 will be: (a) an increased number of excluded children and families benefit from education, social welfare, and justice services, in line with new legislation; and (b) a strengthened child rights infrastructure and enhanced civic and private engagement to realize children's rights.

25. The programme of cooperation will contribute to: (a) an increase in the preschool enrolment rate among Roma and rural children aged 3-5; (b) an improvement in the ratio of alternative family-based care for children with disabilities to institutionalized care; (c) a decrease in the proportion of adolescents out of school; (d) the establishment and effective functioning of structural mechanisms to monitor progress towards social inclusion; and (e) an increase in the allocation of resources for the realization of children's rights.

26. The country programme will employ a mix of strategies across the priority focus areas of early childhood development, child protection, adolescent health and development and civic engagement for child rights. In all areas, UNICEF will facilitate the strengthening of intersectoral cooperation and approaches and will drive the generation and sharing of knowledge and evidence to further inform policies and practice towards their eventual scaling up and institutionalization. Support to systems-strengthening will be complemented by partnership-building for social change at the individual and community levels and for consistent monitoring. Gender will be a cross-cutting theme throughout programme elements, particularly concerning the roles and responsibilities of mothers and fathers within the family, knowledge generation on adolescent behaviours and opportunities, and in the context of violence prevention and response. Emergency preparedness will also be an integral feature of the country programme.

Relationship to national priorities and the UNDAF

27. The Government has set an ambitious midterm agenda covering the political, economic, social, administrative, and governance spectrum, with EU integration as the main driver of reforms. The National Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan and the National Plan for Integration provide the national strategic framework for UNICEF cooperation. These same strategies guide the UNDAF, with 20-some agencies operating in Serbia contributing to multiple dimensions. UNICEF leadership areas within the UNDAF relate specifically to social inclusion, with a strong focus on expanded access to quality basic social services for vulnerable groups. Contributions will also be made to the good governance pillar in the areas of juvenile justice, strengthening independent institutions, enhancing data systems, and enabling the participation of civil society in policymaking.

Relationship to international priorities

28. The Millennium Declaration, the Millennium Development Goals and the priorities of the UNICEF medium-term strategic plan, 2006-2013, are integrated into the country programme, with a strong focus on child protection, gender equality and social inclusion. UNICEF support will aim to complete the "unfinished

business” of the Millennium Development Goals, with focused attention on inclusion of marginalized groups of children.

Programme components

29. The country programme will be organized around two programme components, namely: (a) systems-strengthening for social inclusion; and (b) social accountability for children’s rights. The two components together will assist the Government and key partners to guarantee that marginalized boys and girls benefit from inclusive social services and to create an enabling environment for the realization of children’s rights.

Systems-strengthening for social inclusion

30. As the Government pursues reforms of its basic social services systems, to ensure access to quality services for all, it has sought the continued assistance of UNICEF. Under this programme component, UNICEF will support the Government to: (a) align its regulatory frameworks with reformed laws and policies, in line with international standards; (b) model implementation of key provisions of new legislation in order to develop lower-level procedures and regulations; and (c) generate knowledge and evidence on children and adolescents. The support to systems-strengthening will prioritize areas identified by the Government that require a multisectoral approach and remain a challenge for Serbia in implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

31. ECD will be enhanced through support to coherent multisectoral ECD planning and standard-setting, to strengthen the continuum of services available. The primary focus will be on children not currently benefiting from the system, notably Roma, rural children, children with disabilities and children living in poverty. Particular attention will be paid to: (a) improving the quality and accountability of pre- and post-natal care services, ensuring that they meet set standards, reach the most vulnerable and support parents to provide adequate care; and (b) increasing enrolment for the most disadvantaged children 3-5 years old into preschool programmes and children 6 years old into a compulsory year of preschool.

32. Progress made in establishing a strong normative framework for child protection will be the starting point for expanding access for the most vulnerable children, especially children with disabilities, children without parental care, children at risk of violence and abuse, and children in conflict with law, to existing and new social welfare and protective services. Priority will be given to transformation of centralized, institution-based services into family- and community- based services. Development of accountability mechanisms for quality assurance, and improving access to and use of data, will be prioritized. Cross-sectoral mechanisms for responding to abuse and neglect will be strengthened so that these mechanisms become fully operational and are regularly monitored within the health, education, social welfare and justice sectors. Modelling of innovative cross-sectoral services, such as social welfare and health support services for inclusive education, will kick-start implementation of new laws and define by-laws and regulations.

33. Programming for adolescent health and development will emphasize the generation of knowledge and evidence about adolescent behaviours, needs and

choices, as well as system gaps and responses. Based on these findings, UNICEF will foster the development and institutionalization of new alternative services for groups such as adolescents-at-risk, including juvenile offenders, adolescents at risk of HIV, and school dropouts. Coordination mechanisms among key Ministries will be bolstered at national and local levels to establish a more holistic approach to adolescents. In this regard, special attention will be paid to early identification and prevention of school dropout, which has been identified by the Government as a priority for UNICEF cooperation.

34. While the programme will be national in scope, efforts will be concentrated in the poorest municipalities with the worst development indicators. South Serbia has already been identified as one such region, and is the focus of a joint United Nations programme of cooperation designed to promote access to basic services and prevent conflict. UNICEF Serbia will continue to facilitate South-South exchange of knowledge and experience, particularly in the areas of child care and juvenile justice systems reform, inclusive education for the Roma, and strengthening data collection systems.

Social accountability for children's rights

35. As experience has shown, systems reform is essential but not sufficient to guarantee that children's rights are fully respected. The State system must be complemented and reinforced with actions outside of Government. The second programme component will aim to enhance social accountability for children's rights.

36. This programme component will employ strategies to spark civic engagement and demand for child rights, including: (a) strengthening external oversight and monitoring of system reforms; (b) empowering rights holders to demand and claim their rights and entitlements; and (c) promoting positive behaviours and combating discrimination. It will require the building of strategic alliances that go beyond advocacy and awareness-raising, and are constructed based on mutual responsibility. The programme will rely heavily on C4D strategies in order to complement the systems reforms, ensuring that services meet the needs of the most vulnerable and are widely used by them.

37. Engagement with civil society organizations will be pursued to enable more systematic participation in policy development and monitoring. Focus will be on coalition-building, enabling self-representation of excluded groups and brokering space for expanded dialogue with the Government. Child-focused civil society networks will be supported to advocate for positive behaviour change and improvements in services for young children, children with disabilities and adolescents. In particular, youth-led organizations and peer networks will be enabled to promote healthy choices, intercultural understanding and non-violent conflict resolution. Work with parents' organizations will emphasize better parenting practices and more active engagement with schools, health centres and other service providers.

38. Capitalizing on the establishment of institutions with a statutory responsibility for oversight of child rights, the programme aims to strengthen the capacities of and cooperation among the Deputy Ombudsman for Children, the Parliamentary Working Group for Child Rights and the National Council on Child Rights to promote and monitor implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Priority will be given to improving ex ante compatibility checks with international and regional standards before legislation is adopted and to strengthen the monitoring and reporting on the impact of laws and strategies on children.

39. At the subnational level, partnership will continue with local authorities. Based on the Local Plans of Action experience, standards for child-friendly municipalities will be defined and widely promoted. UNICEF will support the exchange of good practices among municipalities, particularly in the areas of local budgeting for children, intersectoral cooperation and child participation.

40. The programme will further develop its resource mobilization capacities through expansion of its alliances and a stronger focus on leveraging. In partnership with corporate sector and media partners, UNICEF will promote positive business practices and child-focused corporate social responsibility. Such collaboration will encourage innovation and development of new solutions, and will build alliances to influence decisions for children and mobilize resources. Further expansion of capacities of the media to improve reporting on children and establish monitoring systems will be prioritized, as will integration of child rights into the Journalism University curriculum.

41. As reliable and user-friendly data is essential for all partners in monitoring progress towards social inclusion, efforts will continue to refine and improve the national DevInfo system, under the management of the Republican Statistical Office. Particular focus will be placed on increasing availability of disaggregated data and revising the indicators so that they can be used more easily and are consistent with national Millennium Development Goals targets, national plans and broader social inclusion indicators. Support will also be provided to expand usage of DevInfo at the local level as a tool for local planning and reporting.

Cross-sectoral costs

42. Cross-sectoral costs cover salaries of cross-cutting staff; travel, training and equipment, as necessary; and additional operational support to country office management and administration.

Major partnerships

43. Strong partnerships will be central to UNICEF cooperation. Principal national partners will include the Ministries of Labour and Social Policy, Education, Health, Youth and Sport, Human and Minority Rights, Regional and Local Development, Finance, Interior, and Justice; the Social Inclusion Team of the Deputy Prime Minister's Office; the National Council for Children's Rights; the Ombudsman's Office; Parliament; and the Standing Conference of Municipalities. Close collaboration will be established with research institutes and universities, civil society organizations, the corporate sector, and the media.

44. Within the United Nations country team, UNICEF will continue to play an active role in the implementation of the new UNDAF, including in several joint programmes. Continued cooperation with the EU will be prioritized, particularly as the Government prepares its Joint Inclusion Memorandum. Cooperation with the World Bank will be strengthened in the areas of health, education and social welfare. Among bilaterals, continued partnership is planned with the Swiss Development Cooperation in education and in the joint work in South Serbia, along

with the Norwegian Agency for International Development and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Italian cooperation is a key partner in the area of expanding services and support for children with disabilities.

Monitoring, evaluation and programme management

45. The implementation of the current cooperation arrangement will be monitored through joint annual reviews, as well as a midterm review of progress in 2013. Baselines will be established in each area of cooperation. National monitoring systems, notably DevInfo, will provide information on progress and results achieved.

46. A situation analysis will be developed using new data generated from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey in 2010, the 2011 national census results and the planned Survey of Income and Living Standards. A secondary data analysis of the status of children and children poverty will be undertaken on the basis of the Household Budget Survey data. Studies on adolescent behaviour and needs will be prioritized in the first half of the country programme, while a comprehensive evaluation of the child care system reform will be conducted in the second half. Additional research will be undertaken as needed to provide more in-depth analysis on key issues.
