








United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



« Development and Cultural
Diversity to Reduce Poverty and
Promote Social Inclusion »

MDG-F Culture and Development Joint
Programme implemented in

ECUADOR

DURATION : October 2008 – April 2012	CONTRIBUTION TO MDGS :     
UN PARTNERS : UNESCO, UNDP, FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WTO	
BUDGET : 5.5 million USD	

OVERVIEW :

The Joint Programme aims to fight the discrimination and social exclusion of ethnic minorities and disadvantaged groups whose rights and opportunities for education, health services and agricultural production are severely neglected, through the promotion of culture, inclusion and intercultural dialogue, by strengthening intercultural public policies, by supporting cultural activities and by providing capacity-building to generate statistics and information on cultural and ethnic diversity.

Specific objectives :

- Strengthen the exercise of cultural rights, increase political participation, reduce discrimination and promote equal opportunities for excluded groups through the design, implementation and evaluation of intercultural policies
- Increase opportunities for human development and cultural revitalization of marginalized groups, by boosting cultural and creative industries
- Strengthen planning systems at the national and local levels through capacity-building in the fields of production, analysis, usage and dissemination of statistics on cultural and ethnic diversity, with a view to improving cultural policy-making

DIMENSIONS ADDRESSED BY THE JOINT PROGRAMME:

- Economics
- Education
- Heritage
- Communication
- Governance
- Social
- Environment
- Gender equality

CULTURAL DOMAINS COVERED :

- Intangible cultural heritage
- Performance and celebration
- Visual arts and crafts
- Books and press
- Audio-visual and interactive media
- Tourism

INTERNATIONAL CULTURE CONVENTIONS COVERED :

- 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Persons
- 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
- 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
- 2001 Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
- Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization, of 1989
- 1965 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- 1963 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE :

3 provinces: Esmeraldas, Chimborazo and Sucumbíos

SNAPSHOT OF MAIN ACTIONS :

- **Strengthened cultural rights, greater political participation, promotion of equal opportunities and reduced discrimination of socially excluded ethnic minorities:** National Anti-Racism Plan approved by the President of Ecuador; cultural sensitivity incorporated into the national health system; support for the bill structuring indigenous and ordinary justice systems; proposals for the creation of equality councils; national and local workshops on anti-racism and racial equality policies; national policy developed on gender and interculturalism; cultural sensitivity incorporated into the national health system through capacity-building and infrastructure development to ensure culturally appropriate medical services; cultural education strengthened through the publication of dictionaries in native Ecuadorian languages
- **Cultural and creative endeavours of excluded ethnic minorities supported to increase their human development and cultural revitalisation opportunities:** support provided to 28 cultural ventures which produce handicrafts and agricultural products (namely traditional food) and aim to safeguard cultural practices from extinction
- **Strengthened national and local planning systems in relation to cultural and ethnic diversity:** support for an integrated social indicators system by ethnicity, encyclopedia published on the Indigenous and Afro-Descendent communities in Sucumbíos province to inform cultural policies, government and civil society trained in the use of information systems

BENEFICIARIES :

Direct: 151 300 – 50% women

Indirect: 1 753 700 – 50 % women

- Afro-Ecuadorians, Chachi and Epera people of Esmeraldas; Indigenous Kichwa people of Chimborazo ; Siona, Secoya, Kichwa, Cofán and Shuar people of Sucumbíos
- Secondary school students and youth
- Artists and artisans
- Experts and academics
- Community leaders
- Ministries: Natural and Cultural Heritage; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Tourism; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Labor; Ministry of Justice; Secretary of People, Social Movements and Citizen Participation
- Local Government of Esmeraldas, Sucumbíos and Chimborazo provinces

LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS :

- Ministries/Secretariats: Coordination of Natural and Cultural Heritage, Culture, Education, Health, Planning and Development
- Local governments of the Esmeraldas, Chimborazo and Sucumbios Provinces
- Mayors, governors, chairmen of parish councils, provincial ministries directories.
- Indigenous and Afro-descendant organizations

ALIGNMENT TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES :

The Joint Programme is consistent with the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the three Outcomes of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2004-2008: reduce poverty, ensure environmental sustainability, and strengthen democratic governance and transparency.

SUCCESS STORIES :

- ❖ Supporting tourism development: the experience of the community based tourist resort of Cevicangre – Vuelta Larga parish, Rio Verde canton, Esmeraldas province
Local economic development in the province of Esmeraldas has been strengthened through support provided to a community-based tourist venture which promotes traditional livelihoods and culinary traditions, namely by offering the only opportunity in the country to eat 'cevicangre' (a famous traditional dish). Thanks to the Joint Programme the venture has developed its infrastructure, purchased mangrove plantations, enhanced its crab fattening infrastructure, determined the causes of mortality of crabs kept in captivity, and generated greater incomes for its staff, thereby boosting the local economy. The establishment of backyard gardens has also been encouraged to ensure food security for families and vegetables for the venture.

- ❖ Gender and interculturalism policy of the Sectoral Heritage Council
With a view to ensuring social cohesion and promoting cultural diversity, a policy on gender and interculturalism was adopted to ensure equal living conditions for everyone and eradicate harmful practices targeting Indigenous groups, Afro-Ecuadorians, peasants and mixed-race ethnic groups.

- ❖ Intercultural Health System implemented through culturally appropriate childbirth
The linkages between culture and health have been strengthened through the establishment of an intercultural health system in the province of Sucumbíos to raise awareness about intercultural health and culturally appropriate childbirth amongst medical staff and equip medical units so that patients can decide how they want to be attended during childbirth.

- ❖ Implementation of Chacra Shuar Aja in the Shuar nationality
Social development has been fostered by safeguarding the traditions of the Shuar people and strengthening their cultural identity through community gatherings and traditional ceremonies where the elderly pass on oral traditions about how to cultivate native food and medicinal plants in Shuar farms. This project is being replicated with other Indigenous populations of Sucumbíos province.

FOF FURTHER INFORMATION :

MDG-F website:

<http://www.mdgfund.org/program/developmentandculturaldiversityreducepovertyandpromotesocialinclusion>