

Millennium Development Goals at the Local Level

November 2009

Public policies for MDG achievement

UNDP Colombia works with Local Governments following the Public Policies Cycle. The CO begins its work with the candidates running for office (for positions of mayor or governor), encouraging them to include the MDGs in their **political platforms**. Our MDG Strategy follows the cycles providing support to the elected candidates, helping them to translate their campaign proposals into **governmental plans** (Departmental and Municipal Development Plans) that include MDG focus and MDG targets. Finally we support the materialization of **Public Policies**, incorporating the initiatives devised in the governmental plans. The cycle is completed when thematic **projects**, that include the initiatives previously committed to, are implemented.

UNDP Colombia's support and technical assistance provided to local governments has improved the quality of decision-making for drafting Public Policies, has helped both to include the topic of the MDGs on the political agenda and to mobilize important resources used to tackle the identified MDG challenges. The following table shows the resources mobilized so far for eleven public polices approved in the departments of pilot intervention.

Local Public Policies		TOTAL
Resources Allocated:	UNDP Colombia	\$ 1.150.000
	Cost Sharing	\$ 1.321.424
Resources mobilized:	Governor's / Mayor's Office	\$ 134.237.976
	National Government	\$ 212.434.773
	Total USD	\$ 346.672.750

UNDP Colombia

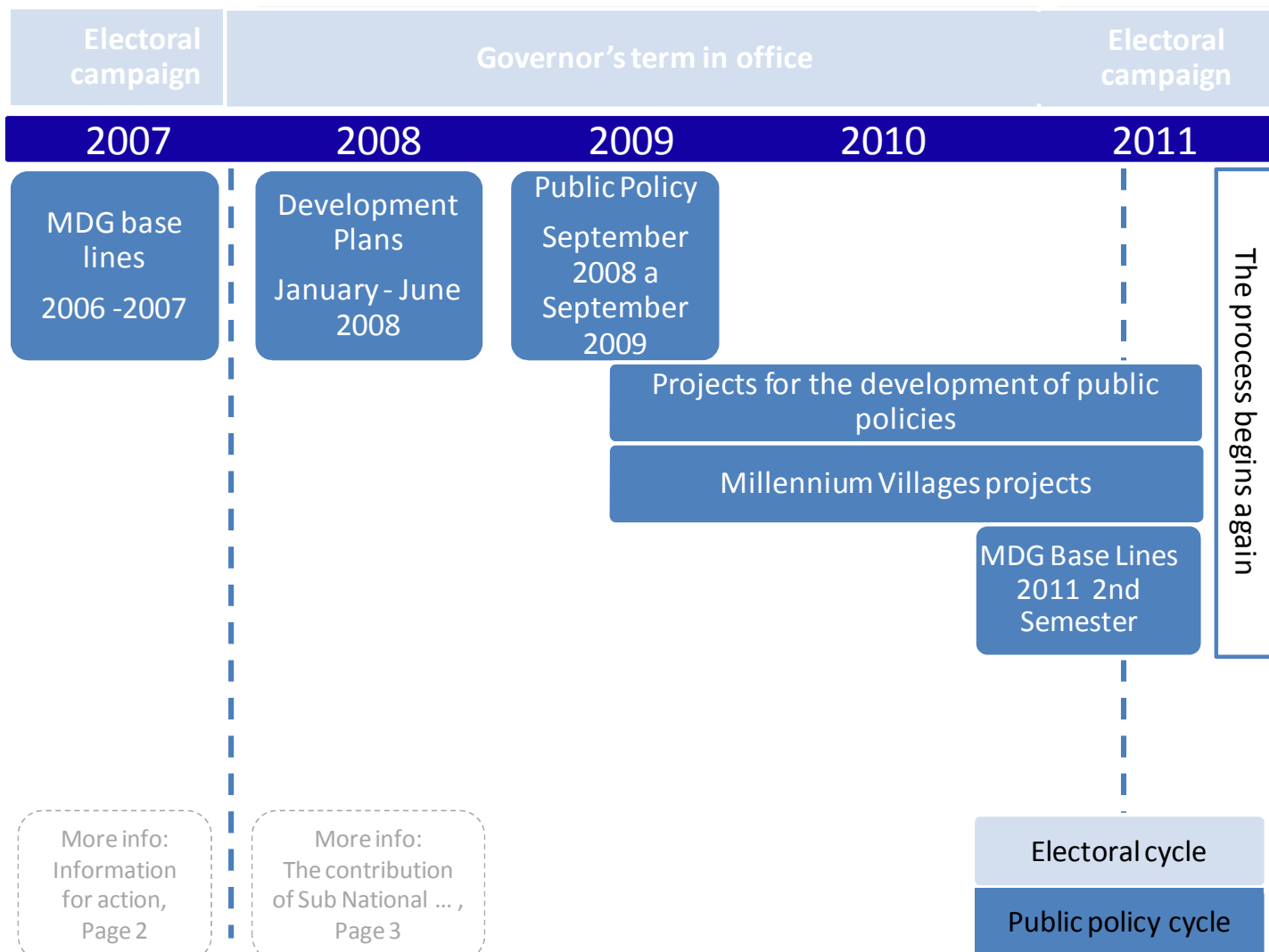
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In this issue:

- Public policies for MDG achievement...1
- Tools for action.....2
- Information for action.....2
- The contribution of Sub-National governments to the MDGs.....3
- HIGHLIGHTS
- Caribbean without hunger.....4
- MDGs in the classroom - Millennium Lectures.....4
- Media promoting the MDGs..... 4



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Tools for action

In collaboration with the Knowledge Management Unit of the Panamá Regional Centre, the CO is documenting the experience of its Program *MDGs at the local level*. The systematization provides a working methodology and a set of tools that incorporate the lessons learned from field experience. Tools developed include guidelines for

drafting Development Plans and Public Policies for MDG achievement, and for developing thematic projects, based on the documented experience of UNDP Colombia.

With this set of tools UNDP Colombia is preparing to provide technical assistance to more territories in the next Public Policy Cycle.



Information for action

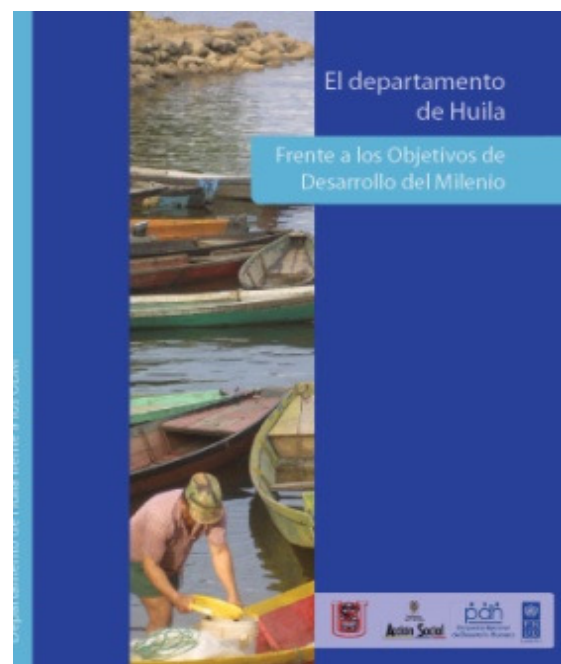


In association with UNICEF, Dev Info has been adapted to country-specific requirements. The socio-economic database Colombia Info2 will be released this month. It contains up-to-date information regarding the 53 national MDG targets. The database includes 410 indicators collected from 181 official sources, with information dating back from 1983 to 2009, disaggregated at national and departmental levels, including Bogotá. The interagency team built a complete database, expanding the initial 16,923 entries of Colombia Info1 to 46,805 in the new version, by adding information from years 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Local officials are being trained in the use of this information system, and how to use it to improve public policy design, investment and follow up.

UNDP Colombia believes that quality information is fundamental for electoral debate and as input for the design of public policies that respond to the actual needs of the territory. The office develops

capacities at the local level creating partnerships with local universities and research centers. The CO offers training on MDGs, statistical tools and methodologies, and provides technical support to academics and students both to draft MDG baseline reports and to support the design of public policies. This will enable the region to continue this process in the next political cycle with less UNDP support, securing ownership and sustainability.



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The contribution of Sub-National governments to the MDGs

For the administrative period 2008-2011, UNDP Colombia provided support to six departments for the drafting of their development plans, DDP. Two of them won the first and second place in the national contest for development plans, promoted by USAID and the National Planning Department.

UNDP conducted a DDP assessment measuring the commitment of departmental governments to the improvement of their indicators of poverty, education, health and environment. The report identifies regions and issues requiring greater attention and an increased effort needed to accomplish the 2015 goals, and promotes public debate around these issues.

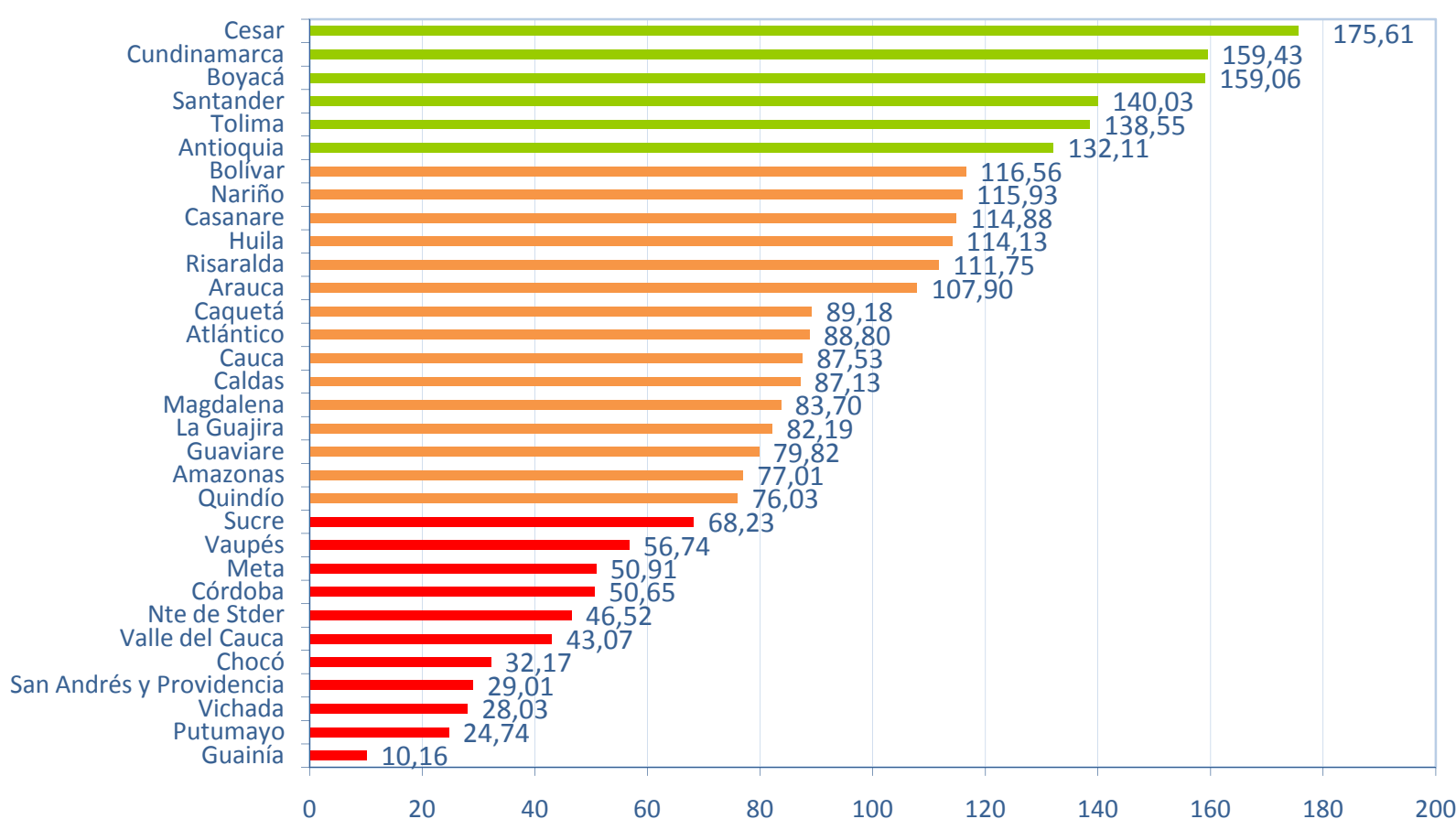
The report evaluated the following five criteria: incorporation of MDG baselines, MDG goals set for the administrative period, existence of a chapter or annex on MDGs, coherence between baselines and goals, and financial effort. The graph below shows the combined results. At the top of the list are Cesar and Cundinamarca, departments where UNDP Colombia provided key technical support.

Departments supported by UNDP Colombia demonstrated better results than the rest of the country.



For these departments the CO supported the development of MDG baselines prior to the elections, promoted public dialogue with the participation of academics, the private sector, the media and the public in general, and provided technical support to the local governments on how to include MDG indicators and targets in their DDP.

For the next public policy cycle UNDP Colombia wants to broaden its reaches to a larger number of departments, and ensure that the MDGs are included in the local public policies. This will give local governments the final push to accomplish the 2015 goals.



November 2009

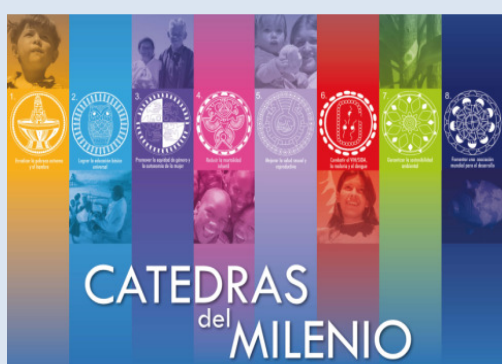
HIGHLIGHTS

Caribbean without hunger



The Knowledge Fair *Caribbean without Hunger* was a mobilizing event designed to promote alliances and call the attention of the National and Regional governments to the global food crisis situation in the northern region of Colombia. *The commitment: Caribbean without Hunger* created a coordinating body at the regional and national levels aiming to: promote an alliance of governors working to overcome malnutrition, facilitate horizontal cooperation, support the coordination between departments, apply for more national resources for food security, and support requirements and technical assistance in these issues and the path to achieve them. *The commitment* accomplished that all Caribbean Departments formulated Food Security Plans financed with their own resources and with technical and financial IDB support.

MDGs in the classroom - Millennium Lectures



Through partnerships with universities across the country, UNDP Colombia delivers the Millennium Lectures, a series of talks on the Millennium Development Goals. The lectures feature guest speakers from UN agencies and UNDP thematic experts. The main goal of the lectures is to raise awareness on the importance of the MDGs and promote public debate around economic and social issues. Ten Millennium Lectures all over the country have been organized with the participation of hundreds of students.

Media promoting the MDGs



Our MGD strategy seeks to consolidate a network of journalists and the media engaged in monitoring public policies for MDG achievement. The network will involve the public both in the discussion and follow up of national and local social policies.

Journalists and community radio stations in four regions (Bogotá, Cartagena, Santander and Cundinamarca) participated in training workshops where they both learned about the MDGs and had coaching sessions to sharpen their journalistic skills. In association with UNIC, UNDP provides short training programs including topics ranging from what the MDGs are and how they are measured, to the selection and assessment of information to make reports and news programs. Thematic content is complemented with specific tools like audio techniques, how to edit a script to make it listener-friendly, and learning how to write reports on poverty.