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**REGIONAL ATLAS OF SUBNATIONAL SOCIAL VULNERABILITY
AND ITS IMPACT ON HEALTH**

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In 2005, the first progress report on the MDGs authored by all the United Nations agencies and coordinated by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), stated clearly that national averages were concealing enormous subnational inequalities. Specifically to address this structural inequity reflecting the Latin America and Caribbean region's status as the world's most inequitable region, the ***Faces, Voices and Places*** initiative was launched in 2006 at the 46th Directing Council during a panel made up of ministers of health, education, work, environment, and agriculture.

The absence of disaggregated municipal data that would reflect the status of the MDGs spurred the creation of a partnership with ECLAC-CELADE (Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Center), using the data derived from the census round to shine a light on subnational differences and make them visible.

In 2010 the second interagency report on the MDGs was submitted, and today we have delivered the report on the MDGs directly related to health. By 2013 we hope to publish an additional report with a subnational analysis.

ECLAC has the repository of census data validated by CELADE and the knowledge and experience to conduct the subnational analysis using the *Unmet Basic Needs (UBN)* indicator. The ECLAC-CELADE-PAHO analyzed the UBN, disaggregating water and sanitation and analyzing health conditions, using proxies that could measure infant mortality (deceased children), adolescent pregnancy, and fertility (average births).

The ***Regional Atlas of Subnational Social Vulnerability***, which I am now presenting, is based on the analysis of data from the 2000 census round. It should be noted that some countries concluded their census in 2001, many of them in 2005, and two in 2007. Two dimensions were considered in the analysis: health conditions and social vulnerability.

Through country, regional, and local maps, the ***Regional Atlas of Subnational Social Vulnerability*** makes it possible to see the relationships between unmet basic needs in each municipality and the social and economic determinants of health. It shows social vulnerability at the subnational level and its relation to health in the Latin American and Caribbean countries. More

specifically, it describes potential scenarios resulting from the relationship between health conditions and social vulnerability:

At the municipal level: in specific areas within countries; major cities where urban health is a priority; and rural areas, as well as transnational areas that share borders between countries and where, despite their ecological and pre-Columbian treasures, people lives in conditions of extreme exclusion. The Atlas also profiles the municipalities with large indigenous populations, where it strengthening intercultural health is an essential development strategy.

Only with the participation and empowerment of the members of these communities can we counteract the effects of certain social determinants, as the ***Faces, Voices and Places*** initiative shows.

The ***Regional Atlas of Subnational Social Vulnerability*** will enable a regional reading of the situation for the analysis and provide a firm foundation for decision-making about municipalities and population groups in territories requiring urgent intervention through comprehensive, targeted policies aimed at bridging the inequity gaps and accelerating progress in the next four years to achieve the MDGs.