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Update on the context and situation of children

Sixty-six per cent of the Angolan population (30.2 million in 2019) is below the age of 25, 46 per cent being children under 15 (INE, 2016). Rapid population growth due to high fertility rate (6.2 children per woman) and accelerated urbanization (63 per cent of population in urban areas) substantially challenge the national capacity for service delivery and proportionate public investment for the social sector and rural areas (DHS 20.15-2016). With an estimated Gini coefficient of 0.43 (IBEP, 2008), 51.2 per cent of Angolans are multidimensionally poor (29.9 per cent in urban areas and 88.2 per cent in rural areas in 2018). Poverty, multiple and overlapping deprivations hinder the survival and physical, psychological and social development and protection of children. The 2018 Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA) indicate that 74.4 per cent of children are poor and suffer three to seven deprivations at a time in nutrition, health, child protection, malaria prevention, education, information, housing, water and sanitation and birth registration. The 2019 Human Development Index places Angola at 149 out of 189 countries.

Through analysis of public finance for children, UNICEF tracked trends in budget allocations for the social sector and documented efforts to enable increases in the budget. Notwithstanding Government efforts to prioritize investments in the social sector, overall and in relative weight, the allocations have been proportionally declining over the last 5 years, as the country struggles to stabilize the economy and increase public revenue, heavily impacted by the global drop and volatility of crude oil price, the burden of debt service, inflation and devaluation of local currency. The real GDP was forecasted to contract by 1.1 per cent in 2019 as the economy continues to rely heavily on oil revenue and monetary policy is being tightened. In 2019 the Government continued to seek economy diversification, enact fiscal reform and cut on subsidies, attract investment, fight corruption and promote decentralization and good governance. A conservative supplementary budget was adopted for the year, seeking fiscal consolidation, preservation of social spending, and non-oil revenue mobilization such as adoption of a value-added tax. To mitigate the side-effects of reforms on the most vulnerable, a cash-transfer program is under development with the support of the World Bank, to be implemented in coming years.

UNICEF Angola adjusted and streamlined its programme in 2019 through close dialogue with, and in support of Government counterparts and civil society partners, to change the status of children in the country, promote equity and leave no one behind under the current context. Upstream efforts yielded key results across all programmatic areas during the year, in endeavoring to strengthen the national legislative and policy frameworks and strengthen systems through technical tools and human capital; and establish coordination platforms for efficient cross-sectoral service delivery. In the field, UNICEF supported development and piloting of integrated, equity-based decentralized service delivery models with potential for scalability. These efforts promoted leveraging of political will for ownership, sustainability and scalability of programmes such as: a) the country's first social cash transfer programme, which reached 11,473 children from 6,325 families; b) establishment of innovative one-stop Centers for Children and Adolescents (CIACA) in four provinces, integrating the Juvenile Court and Child Protection Commission for child friendly service delivery, supported by an information management system, and c) expansion of community-based early childhood model.

During the year the country suffered health emergencies as result of disease outbreaks. In June, the government declared a national emergency of polio-vaccine derived outbreaks (to date 85 cases in 16 provinces). UNICEF mobilized technical, financial and operational support for 12 rounds of vaccination campaigns, which reached over 4.5 million children with delivery of vaccines valued at US\$ 7.2 million, technical support for vaccine management and engagement of over 8,700 community social mobilizers and caregivers in affected areas to support polio preventive measures and mobilization for vaccination. 500,000 essential commodities, including visibility materials were delivered for each polio campaign.

Climate change induced humanitarian crisis also continued to affect Angola in 2019, with protracted droughts aggravated during the year, severely affecting the southern provinces of Cunene, Huíla, Namibe and Bié. With UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) funds, UNICEF joined hands with UNFPA, FAO and WHO to implement coordinated drought responses in severely affected communities. UNICEF supported local level authorities to strengthen disaster risk reduction systems and enhance resilience through the 'safe havens' approach, offering programmatic integration of child-centered emergency and development services. These initiatives provided life-saving access to safe water (67,968 people), rehabilitation of water sources (34 water points), improved hygiene (74,340 families) and sanitation (82,340 people), also contributing to environmental sustainability and mitigating the impacts of climate change. An innovative mobile application water supply/trucking monitoring system was developed. Emergency education interventions reached 4,580 primary school children supported to restore their access to learning, also facilitating birth registration, immunization and nutrition screening.

UNICEF additionally supported training of 35 nutrition focal points of 18 provinces and 43 nutrition focal points from 23 most affected districts on Nutrition in Emergency. In collaboration with provincial and municipal authorities ready-to-use therapeutic and supplementary foods and therapeutic milk were distributed to children in 14 municipalities and 47 health units. 231,938 children under five were screened for malnutrition, 25,410 (13.6 per cent) diagnosed with Global Acute

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Malnutrition and 7,873 children with Severe Acute Malnutrition, all referred for treatment respectively in out-patient and in-patient facilities. UNICEF reached 202,667 caregivers with counselling on early detection of malnutrition and positive Infant and Young Child Feeding, preventive health and hygiene practices. Knowledge on nutrition and hygiene increased for over 57,000 caregivers' (58 per cent women, 42 per cent men) of children.

In 2019 UNICEF continued to support programming for DRC refugees in Lunda Norte province, through collaboration with UNHCR, the local government and civil society. The support included access to water and improved sanitation reaching over 20,000 refugees and psycho-social support for refugee children in the process of repatriation. Agencies and Government developed standard operating procedures (SOP) for the *best interest determination* panel for children in relation to the family reunification and voluntary repatriation.

Major contributions and drivers of results

Child survival and development

To deliver results for children at-scale, in 2019 UNICEF continued to advocate and provide technical assistance for the development and implementation of national level policies, strategies and plans, while investing strongly in capacity and systems strengthening. The National Nutrition Policy and Five-year Multi-sectoral Stunting Reduction Plan 2019-2023 and the National Policy and National Strategy on Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), were adopted by Government in 2019. Progress was made in implementation of the national Inclusive Education policy adopted in 2017, and in the development of national policies for Early Childhood Development (ECD) and for Social Protection, both in advanced stages of finalization, for official adoption in 2020.

Despite multiple challenges, Angola reduced under-five mortality from 145 per 1,000 live births in 2005 to 68 per 1,000 in 2015. However, the neonatal mortality rate remains high, at 24 per 1,000 live births and the national stunting rate stands at 38 per cent (DHS, 2015-2016). The health sector represents 4.99 per cent of the 2020 state budget, with significant cuts in key programmes such as immunization, nutrition and malaria, compared to 2019 (ADRA & UNICEF, 2019). UNICEF successfully advocated with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to include Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food and Milk in the essential drugs list, procured by UNICEF. With UNICEF and WHO support, MoH revised the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition Protocol for children under 5 years. This national Protocol is aligned with the latest international standards and recommendations. Seventy health professionals were trained by the co-authors of the standard WHO/UNICEF global protocol to deliver improved nutrition services for children. The Iodine Nutrition survey was conducted in November 2019 with results expected in early 2020. The Integrated Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) and Nutrition Strategy developed was technically cleared for endorsement by MoH. UNICEF worked with UNFPA and WHO to support of the National Directorate of Public Health to develop and integrate the maternal and new born health strategy for Angola.

Immunization coverage remains low, with a national DTP coverage of 77.5 per cent for 2019 (DHS2, MoH, December 2019). In Luanda, where over a quarter of the population of 30 million reside, UNICEF supported the development of an Urban Immunization Strategy and Operational Plan. With GAVI support, UNICEF procured 123 new vaccine refrigerators for the national immunization programme. Twenty districts of Cunene and Huila, two provinces with low coverage rates, were supported to implement routine immunization micro-plans. A total of 99,715 children under 1 year received the third dose of Pentavalent vaccine: 59.4 per cent and 88.7 per cent of infants in Cunene and Huila, respectively. As part of the Health System Strengthening, UNICEF supported the expansion of district health information system (DHIS2) platform in Cunene and Huila provinces, including training of 150 information management staff and district administrators. 22 RMNCAH staff were also trained in DHIS2 oversight. In addition to supporting the procurement of cold chain equipment, an innovative remote temperature monitoring system for vaccine storage systems is being piloted with UNICEF technical assistance. Overall, 32.6 million doses of traditional and emergency vaccines were procured and delivered. Most traditional vaccines were procured with government funds directly through UNICEF (US\$17.3 million and US\$8.3 million via GAVI).

UNICEF supported all 18 provinces to develop their prevention of HIV mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) expansion plans under the Global "Born Free to Shine" campaign led by the Country's First Lady. In addition, technical assistance on Point of Care (POC) technology for early infant diagnosis of HIV-exposed children has been provided to the INLS that is working on a 3-year POC implementation plan.

Water and Sanitation coverage also remains low with 53 per cent of people practicing open defecation (MINAMB Administrative Data). Investment in the sector stands at 0.9 per cent of State Budget for 2020 (ADRA & UNICEF, 2019). In partnership with UN-HABITAT, and under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment (MINAMB) and the Government of Luanda, UNICEF took the first steps to implement a model to foster community-based sanitation alternatives and integrated solid waste management in Luanda's peri-urban neighborhoods, in partnership with local entrepreneurs. A south-south cooperation activity with the government of Brazil was facilitated by UNICEF to support the initiative, which will

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bring improved sanitation to 20,000 people living in those areas. In rural areas, 140 communities were triggered in 2019 by the CLTS programme of the MINAMB, and 63 new rural communities were certified as Open Defecation Free (ODF). 22,859 people, including children from 20 schools, now live in a safer environment. In addition, Angola declared the first ODF commune (corresponding to 200 villages and more than 54,000 people), and 19 municipalities allocated public funds for CLTS, thanks to UNICEF advocacy and training of 101 people in 43 municipalities staff on planning and budgeting for CLTS. The National CLTS Strategy 2030 was approved by the Council of Ministers.

MODA analysis indicates that three in four children below 18 are deprived in at least three out of seven dimensions. The national Social Protection Policy was developed to be approved in 2020. Investment in the social protection sector stands at 3.27 per cent of the 2020 state budget, representing a 1.2 per cent increase compared with 2019 (ADRA & UNICEF, 2019). With UNICEF technical assistance, partnering with Louis Berger and with financial support from the European Union (EU), the country's first cash transfer programme ("Valor Criança") was launched by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Family and Women (MASFAMU) in August 2019. 11,473 most vulnerable children under 5 years from 6,325 families, already benefit from regular direct financial support in Bié, Moxico and Uíge provinces, paid through an innovative partnership with three commercial banks, under oversight of the regulating authority, the National Bank of Angola. Beyond the financial inclusion of the poorest families, community-based organizations are supported to develop 'cash-plus' income generating and other social action projects with the beneficiary families; an innovative registry and information system was set up for the cash transfer program along with investment on capacity strengthening of a core MASFAMU team for management of cash transfer programs. The cash transfer programme has been included in 2020 State Budget and was referred by high level authorities as a critical social sector intervention to address poverty and support the most vulnerable populations in Angola.

UNICEF capitalized on the bilateral and the UNCT strategic partnership with the Institute for National Statistics of Angola (INE) to conduct a comprehensive baseline study of 2,500 households, a cornerstone of the monitoring and evaluation framework of the Cash Transfers Pilot Program. Partnership with INE included preparations and financial support for DHS/IIMS 2020, a SMART survey and the first study on salt iodization in the country.

Only 11 per cent of children has access to any ECD services in Angola. UNICEF engaged with key stakeholders, including the Social Affairs Cabinet of the Office of the President of Angola, to address this significant gap, advance the ECD agenda, and finalize the National ECD Policy. The GoA is now promoting the expansion of UNICEF supported model *Todos Unidos Pela Primeira Infância*/All United for Early Childhood (TUPPI) from 4 provinces to all 18 provinces in the country. Through UNICEF support, TUPPI benefitted 1,579 children and 676 families in the provinces of Huíla, Bié, Moxico and Uíge in 2019. Due in part to UNICEF's advocacy efforts, the Ministry of Education (MoE), provincial and municipal authorities have made commitments for ECD and Early Childhood Education (ECE). For example, the proposed 2020 State Budget increased funding for ECE by over 213 per cent, from US\$990,540 to \$3,103,085 (however, pre-school only represents 0.17% of the total education budget).

In Angola, birth registration rate for children under 5 years old is 25 per cent (DHS, 2015-2016). The share of the state budget for the Massification of Birth Registration project increased by 240 per cent for 2020, and other key justice programmes directly promoting child rights also saw significant increases (ADRA & UNICEF, 2019). UNICEF conducted advocacy for sustainable investment for civil registration and vital statistics, as stated in the exit strategy of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (MINJUSDH) for the EU funded project. In 2019, over 400,000 children had their birth registered and 69,015 school aged children received national ID cards, a key document to access full citizenship rights. The routine registration of newborns in hospital maternity wards and the deployment of mobile brigades for late birth registration were mainstreamed even further with continued UNICEF support to MINJUSDH. 70 maternities now offer BR services in 8 provinces.

One of the main barriers for BR is the ingrained gender norm whereby fathers do not fulfill their role and responsibility of ensuring the right of their children to be officially recognized. To address this, the initiative *Responsible Fatherhood: I am in!* was implemented in 2019 by MINJUSDH with support from UNICEF and political buy-in of other ministries and the Angolan Army, promoting dialogue with caregivers on the role of fathers in birth registration and caregiving.

Child and Adolescent Development and Participation

Angola is experiencing rapid population growth with one of the highest fertility rates in Southern Africa, estimated at 6.2 children per woman (DHS, 2015-2016). Sixty-six per cent of the population is below the age of 25, with 46 per cent children under the age of 15 (INE, 2016), challenging state capacity for proportionate public investment that benefits adolescents and youth. UNICEF and UNFPA have carried out a mapping exercise to identify the existing services, partnerships and projects for this population group, to promote an inter-agency framework for programming that better responds to their rights and needs.

While 71 per cent of school aged children have access to primary education, enrollment rate drops drastically to 40 per

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cent for secondary education (43 for boys; 37 for girls, DHS2015-2016). Investment in the education sector dropped to 5.3 per cent (in real terms) in the 2020 state budget, compared to 6.05 per cent in 2019 (ADRA & UNICEF, 2019). In partnership with the Ministry of Education, progress was made in three areas: (1) ensuring equitable access to education for all children in Angola; (2) improving the quality of child-friendly teaching and learning; and (3) strengthening school management and the collection, use and analysis of educational data.

More than 27,000 children in the provinces of Bié, Huila, Lunda Norte, Moxico and Uige had access to education with improved quality learning opportunities through UNICEF technical and financial support to MoE. Across the country, however, access to quality learning remains a challenge and primary schools are marked by high drop-out rates, especially for girls.

In 2019, UNICEF deepened engagement with government at central, provincial, and municipal levels to ensure access to quality education, including the 'start up' of inclusive education resources centers in a further 8 provinces (from 5 in 2018). Furthermore, 1,051 provincial inclusive education focal points (465 are women) from 13 provinces have been trained in implementation of the National Inclusive Education Policy, acting as a critical mass to advance the inclusion agenda in education across the country. In Huila province, the UNICEF supported integrated community project was successfully transferred from partner ADRA, to the local provincial education directorate. By the end of 2019, approximately 2,752 (1,278 girls) children in primary education and 234 adolescents and adults (198 girls and women) had access to accelerated learning courses.

A geo-referencing in-depth statistical analysis of the educational sector (School Mapping) model was completed in Huila and is underway in Namibe and Huambo. In Huila, data is already informing planning and resource allocation processes. In partnership with UNICEF and World Bank's Learning for All (PAT) project, the Ministry of Education will expand the School Mapping to eight new provinces, which will improve investment plans on the basis of supply and demand data. In 2019, all MoE national directors were granted access to EMIS, and the Ministry published school statistical yearbooks for the first time for years 2015 and 2016. UNICEF provided technical and financial support to MoE to strengthen its capacity to collect, analyze, and report quality data. Angolan is now engaged in the global UNICEF Data Must Speak (DMS) Initiative which provides technical support for the improved use of data at all levels of the system and will further catalyze progress in 2020 and beyond.

Twenty-four per cent of girls aged 15 to 19 have suffered physical or sexual violence and one in three married girls in the same age group have been victims of intimate partner violence (DHS, 2015-2016). To address violence against children through a multisectoral and integrated approach, UNICEF supported with EU funding, the development of institutional referral flows for better case management and reporting. The referral mechanisms will guide practitioners in handling cases of different nature, such as child labor, children on the move and child trafficking, children victims of sexual based violence and other form of violence and abuses, juvenile justice, abuse of psychotropic substances/drugs, and alternative care. Standard Operating Procedures were developed and adopted officially, detailing roles and accountabilities of each of government stakeholder in the provision of required services in the chain of child protection responses, namely Justice, Interior, Social Welfare, Education, Health and the National Children's Institute (INAC). The development of referral pathways and SOP involved multi-sector consultation and approximately 1,000 professionals from the participating entities received in-service training to mainstream the uptake of these new instruments for case management.

The development and preparation of infrastructure for establishment of CIACA was concluded in 2019. The model is set to be operational and fully functioning in the provinces of Luanda, Moxico, Malange and Huila in early 2020, supported by an integrated information management system for Justice for Children. To foster better alignment of Angola's juvenile justice system with international standards, UNICEF, in partnership with the international NGO Salesianos Dom Bosco, supported a pilot model for community orders service program which offers non-custodial alternatives to sentencing of adolescents in conflict with the law. So far 60 adolescents attend the project at its pilot phase, and agreement has been made with relevant ministries and Court for the expansion in 2020 to include children awaiting trial and prevent pre-trial detention.

Decentralized Convergent Social Service, Coordination and Public Finance for Children

As evidenced in the MODA, Angolan children are not benefiting from all services required for their full development and participation. Despite the efforts by the government to decentralize and improve services, municipalities face challenges in ensuring quality service delivery due to limited human and financial capacity. To leave no one behind and address structural and multidimensional poverty, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Family and Women continued to strengthen the Municipalization of Social Action (MAS) model piloted with UNICEF and the EU support, under the National Directorate of Social Action. More than 50,000 households were registered at Integrated Social Action Centers (CASI), 6 at municipal level and 18 at communal level, a five-fold increase from 2018. The main pillar of UNICEF efforts to support decentralization of operations of the cash transfer programme are the CASIs; over 110 community social workers and municipal administrators were trained on project implementation, while vulnerable families in target municipalities also participated in 15 community projects implemented by 12 CBOs. These CBOs were identified, trained and engaged under a UNICEF

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partnership with World Vision.

To reinforce the national social work capacity, the first master's degree in Social Services in Angola was approved by the Ministry of Higher Education in June 2019, following a partnership between UNICEF, the Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC) and the Catholic University of Angola (UCAN). The Master's degree incorporates a strong research component in the social protection sector and will create regular cohort of frontline social workers.

To reinforce social sector coordination for improved and integrated service delivery, UNICEF supported the establishment of a National WASH Sector Coordination Platform (FONAS) launched in 2019 under the joint leadership of Ministry of Energy and Water and the Ministry of Environment. FONAS aims at improving the communication, coordination and collaboration among WASH sector's stakeholders such as Ministries of Health, Education, Economy and Planning and Finance, as well as UN agencies and the International Financing Institutions (IFI), namely the World Bank (WB), the Africa Development Bank (AfDB), and bi-laterals organizations.

UNICEF Angola, in partnership with the national NGO ADRA, continued to advance the public finance for children agenda, contributing to government, civil society and parliamentary dialogue to increase social sector budget allocations. High-quality rapid analysis fully aligned to the 2020 State Budget cycle was conducted and disseminated in the two weeks following the publication of the state budget proposal. General and sector analyses of the 2019 State Budget tracked trends of social sector allocations, including a 2,172 per cent increase to nutrition, attributable in part to UNICEF's advocacy for equitable SDGs financing through its 2018 Budget Briefs.

To win support for the cause of child rights by decision-makers and wider public, strategic partnership with the Ministry of Social Communication led to increased and better-quality media coverage on child rights issues. UNICEF provided technical support for training of over 100 journalists (more than half of which are youth reporters) from all 18 provinces, improving communication skills and establishing an informal network of youth reporters to cover and promote child rights and the implementation of the government's 11 Commitments for Children. The training allowed to reinforce advocacy to define a national UNICEF joined hands with the Ministry of Justice, MASFAMU, INAC and Ministry of Social Communication to conduct a joint advocacy around the World Children's Day and the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC@30). The partnership led to the launch of a national Alliance for Children, which generated over 250 individual commitments of politicians, activists, private sector representatives and artists towards a movement in favor of child rights in 2020.

During 2019, UNICEF Angola's social media increased its base of followers and reached more people through various communications channels. The base of digital supporters has surpassed the symbolic mark of 50,000, a 36 per cent growth over the same period of last year. The number of people reached through UNICEF's digital channels – including social, media, website and Internet of Good Things – totaled 2,697,831 until the end of November, a 28 per cent increase over 2018.

The CO utilized evaluation pool funds (HQ) to start evaluation of UNICEF's contribution to the education sector (2015-2019) and to begin work on national evaluation capacity.

Finally, under senior management leadership, the office collectively reviewed the Independent Taskforce report and carried out analysis of country-specific issues to implement an action plan through a working group of Peer Support Volunteers, Staff Association, Staff Development Committee, and Human Resources.

Lessons Learned and Innovations

Lesson 1: Addressing child rights through private banks engagement

Partnerships with the bank sector is one of the promising innovative approaches initiated by UNICEF Angola in 2019, building on business relations and corporate social responsibility (CSR) to advance children's rights and strategic social investment.

The pilot project for the country's first unconditional social cash transfer programme offered opportunity for an innovative partnership with three commercial banks contracted through transparent public bidding for the payment service. Firstly, the social nature of the project, aimed at the most vulnerable children, motivated the banks to waive or reduce to a symbolic amount the costs of transaction for each of the payments. This in-kind contribution saved considerable funding, which is reinvested on children, as part of the banks' CSR contribution.

Secondly, the engagement of the banks in the payment process further added innovations for a better impact on children and their families. The low levels of identity registration amongst the target population was a major obstacle to ensure the

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implementation of the programme. After high level advocacy efforts by UNICEF and MASFAMU, the regulator National Bank of Angola and the MINJUSDH authorized to adopt a project's beneficiary ID card as a valid document to open beneficiary bank accounts, while UNICEF facilitates beneficiaries access to formal civil registration and identification.

Each bank's approach to the payments offered the possibility of illiterate rural women to open a bank account and access basic financial education, delivered by bank staff. This interaction promotes the financial inclusion of the rural populations, an important component in poverty reduction strategies. The experience therefore contributed to a change of mindset amongst these banks, as they recognized the business opportunity in facilitating the delivery of social cash transfers as a portal into the wider world of financial services, such as microcredit, and increase of bank account holders in rural areas. Their newly gained experience in this project will place them in a strong position to contribute to the wider financial inclusion agenda in Angola in years to come, benefiting the most vulnerable population. In the pilot phase, over 6,000 families with over 11,000 children under 5 received the child grants and had their knowledge increased on how to use the contributions to invest in education, positive health, nutrition and hygiene behaviors. The added value of private sector engagement, which more effectively combined different stakeholders working on financial inclusion to better understand their roles and responsibilities and to strengthen delivery of social cash transfers, was another important lesson learned.

Another example of private sector engagement in the humanitarian approach is the Safe Havens project, developed in partnership with the Corporate Social Responsibility Department of another private bank. 1.2 million USD were raised by the bank for UNICEF to deliver integrated basic social services, using schools as entry-points, to provide immediate relief and create community resilience for the families in the southern provinces affected by the major climate change-induced drought. The project is implemented through schools in the municipality of Ombadja (Cunene), to provide safe water points, nutritional supplements, community based early learning models to sustain and ensure children are benefiting from the intervention. The quality of teaching, school-based emergency preparedness and response, and community engagement will be reinforced to ensure participation and ownership for long-term sustainability. The overarching objective within this humanitarian-development nexus is modelling: the project will be used as a replicable model for future expansion in other municipalities.

Lesson 2: Use of evidence to challenge gender norms

As part of a programme to promote birth registration and recognizing the need for positive parenting and responsible fatherhood in particular, the MINJUSDH with support from UNICEF and the political buy-in of other ministries and the Angolan Army, launched a national evidence-based initiative: "*Responsible Fatherhood: I am in!*". The initiative combines multimedia approaches with key influencers in Angola, and C4D interventions at community level, engaging religious and traditional leaders to promote dialogue with caregivers on the role of fathers in birth registration and caregiving. The initiative is also strategically launched to support the new birth registration policy in hospitals, a model introduced with UNICEF support which has been gradually scaled-up nationwide by the Government.

The decision to promote dialogue on responsible fatherhood in Angola was based on the findings of a formative study on birth registration. The identification of priority groups as the main subjects of paternal abandonment complaints by mothers (taxi drivers, army forces and policemen) was based on official statistics – which was key to reach those men who are more likely to abandon their children. The design of the initiative was informed by the results of interviews and focus group discussions with different male groups and messages were also tested with men of different ages and social conditions.

A study on the impact of mass media campaign shows that 45 per cent of parents who recalled the campaign said it made them change or consider changing the way they care for their children. This rate was higher (55 per cent) among younger parents aged 18-24. Out of the parents reached, 87.7 per cent said they would register their children, noting even higher rates (93 per cent) among younger parents (18-24 years).

The added value of the use of evidence in each phase of the initiative was the most important lesson learned, as the evidence more effectively drove the synergy of combining different approaches. This was pivotal in achieving these positive results in knowledge, attitudes and perceptions.

Based on the lessons learned from the ongoing Country Programme (CP) and following the extensive development process of the new CP 2020-2022, in 2019 UNICEF Angola started adjusting its programme, incorporating geographic convergence and multi-sectoral approaches and strengthening alignment to the national priorities from the NDP 2018-2022, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the SDGs. Furthermore, the CP design and approach of convergent decentralized services, informed the development of the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2020-2022).