

Argentina

Part 1: Situation update in the country

Argentina is a high-income country with a Gross National Income per capita of US\$13,040 (2017) that has made noteworthy progress in several areas, such as the reduction of infant mortality and the almost universal access to primary education. As a federal state, Argentina has decentralized an important level of responsibilities and accountabilities to provinces in key social competencies related to children, especially health, education and child protection. At the same time, the central Government has a crucial role in developing norms, policies, standards and strategies as a framework for the decentralized level. Challenges persist, as competencies transferred to provinces do not always entail the necessary financial resources and capacities and there are still considerable equity gaps among regions and provinces and within provinces.

Argentina is facing an important economic crisis. Its domestic economic challenges accelerated during 2018, which was marked by the need to stabilize the economy. This implied a shift from the set of national policies implemented during 2016-2017 towards a drastic monetary and fiscal adjustment, starting in the second semester of 2018. Signs of the weakness in external financing that arose during this period were addressed by the national Government through exchange rate interventions, a raise in interest rates and a stand-by agreement signed with the International Monetary Fund for US\$56.3 billion to assure the accomplishment of the financial programme and avoid public debt default.

In the fiscal area, primary public deficit was expected to have been reduced at national level from 3.9 per cent in 2017 to 2.6 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2018. Regarding the exchange rate, the country suffered a currency run that implied an almost 100 per cent devaluation of from 20 Argentinian pesos to US\$1 to 40 pesos to US\$1. The Central Bank of the Republic of Argentina estimated an exchange rate of nearly 50 pesos to the US dollar for 2019 and raised the interest rates, reaching levels of over 70 per cent, which negatively impacted the economic activity levels.

A 48 per cent inflation rate was estimated for the end of 2018 and 30 per cent for 2019. The GDP will have dropped by 2.4 per cent in 2018 and 1 per cent in 2019. Official data from the National Bureau of Statistics (third trimester 2018) showed a 3.5 per cent contraction of the economic activity, compared to the same period of 2017, thus confirming that the Argentinean economy ended 2018 in recession. The negative impact of this situation was reflected on the employment rates, mainly by an increase of unemployment, reaching 9 per cent, with an emphasis on the manufacturing industry and construction sectors. Unemployment is higher among young people under 29, 14.9 per cent for men and 21.5 per cent among women.

Fiscal constraints generated significant public budget cuts for 2019, mainly regarding economical subsidies, however, efforts to shield social expenditures at national level must be acknowledged, including the sustainment of cash transfers. Nevertheless, budget under execution in some key areas, such as health, early childhood education (ECD) and initial education could affect the implementation of child-related policies across the country and the realization of child rights.

Among these adjustments, the Government reduced nine of the 19 ministries that constitute the National Cabinet. In this context the Ministry of Health was absorbed by the Ministry of Social Development that continued to function as Secretariat of Government.

Argentina faces strong disparities and equity gaps in the rights and situation of children, between the north and the south of the country, as well as within provinces. The most disadvantaged and excluded children and families include: children and adolescents in impoverished communities, such as those living in large urban conglomerates, peri-urban and remote rural areas; indigenous children, migrant children; children with disabilities; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender children and adolescents.

Data from the first half of 2018 from the Permanent Household Survey of the National Institute of Statistics showed that 5.5 million children lived in monetary poverty, representing 42 per cent of the total population aged 0-17. From a multidimensional approach, 6.3 million children (48 per cent) were poor. In both scenarios, poverty rates were higher among children compared to adults. The prevalence of poverty is deeper if the head of household was unemployed, worked in the informal sector, had less than six years of formal education, or in the case of single-parent households, often led by women dealing with the double burden of care and income generation.

Argentine legislation offers economic protection for children by supporting their families' income. The coverage of family allowances remained wide, although not universal, leaving many children exposed to serious social and economic risks: 1.6 million children (12.6 per cent) did not receive any kind of coverage. According to UNICEF's 2018 study on the main cash transfer programme, the Universal Child Allowance (AUH), the expansion of social protection schemes is critical to address extreme poverty. It was estimated that the programme had an effect in reducing extreme poverty by 31 per cent. However, its impact on poverty was less significant at 5 per cent. The purchasing value of cash transfers may vary in short periods within an inflationary context, thus eroding the efficacy of the protection offered, as happened in 2018.

In terms of special protection, information challenges remain. Although advances have been made, further efforts are required to develop disaggregated and consolidated information to guarantee the fulfilment of rights to a wide range of children. These include children with disabilities, migrant children, children belonging to indigenous groups, children in situations of trafficking, sexual abuse, child labour and violence, children and adolescents without parental care, children in conflict with the law and child victims of crimes.

Another important challenge is to advance in the effective implementation of a comprehensive early childcare policy. The majority of children (79 per cent) aged 0-3 years have no access to childcare or education services, with strong disparities according to income levels. Only one in two workers have access to maternity or paternity leave.

Social investment has been a priority during the last decade, representing around 63 per cent of the National Budget by the end of 2018. The national Government's investment in children reached more than 2.5 per cent of GDP in 2017, a figure that is slightly under the level registered for 2016 (2.6 per cent) while the resources invested by the Consolidated Public Sector are estimated to be around 7 per cent of GDP. The public spending on children doubled in the last 20 years, although there are still significant disparities on budgetary allocations for

children between provinces. Social investment per child in southern provinces is estimated to be five times higher than in the north-east provinces. Investment in early childhood amounted to 1.9 per cent of GDP and 6.8 per cent of Social Investment in 2016 for the Consolidated Public Sector (national Government plus provinces), and it remained at these levels in 2017. More than 60 per cent of these resources are executed by the provinces, although around 10 per cent of this spending is financed by the national Government through transfers. Nonetheless, in response to the current economic crisis, the Government is pursuing a fiscal austerity programme which is likely to impact on social investment figures for 2018.

The legal framework on violence, neglect and abuse against children was strengthened in 2017 with the reform of the Civil Code that included a specific norm that prohibits any form of physical punishment, ill treatment or acts intended to cause physical or psychological injuries to children (article 647). It also replaced the term parental authority for parental responsibility. In addition, several legislative milestones were achieved to change gender social norms and prevent violence against children and women. A Bill to amend to the Criminal Code to consider sexual crimes against children and adolescents as public and investigated upon the court's decision in all cases was given preliminary approval by the Chamber of Deputies in 2018. The "Brisa Bill" establishes a monthly cash transfer of US\$215 for children whose mothers were femicide victims. The "Micaela Bill", sanctioned in December 2018, created the National Permanent Programme of Institutional Capacity Building on Gender and Violence Against Women. It establishes mandatory capacity building in gender perspectives for all public officers from the three governmental levels. Finally, a draft Bill to change family leave was presented to Congress, although not formally discussed by the end of the year.

Despite this positive progress, legal and institutional obstacles continued to exist to build a uniform system of comprehensive protection throughout the territory. Moreover, many provinces have not appropriately set up resources, administrative structures or planned for adequate funding to meet the commitments required by such legal framework. Therefore, the degree of decentralization of the system varies and makes it difficult to provide a coordinated State response by the various agencies that shape the Comprehensive Protection System.

Fourteen years after the enactment of the National Act No. 26.061 which established the figure of a National Ombudsperson for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, the position has not yet been appointed.

A juvenile justice legal framework has not been developed. The national Juvenile Justice System is not consistent with the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) or with the Comprehensive Protection Act. It offers fewer guarantees to adolescents than to accused adults and leaves ample room for discretionary intervention by judges. In addition, the frequency of adopting custodial sentences is still high and contrary to the principle of using it only as a last resort, exceptionally and for the shortest time possible.

Regarding the right to health, there has been considerable progress in reducing child mortality, while further efforts are needed to reduce maternal mortality, which showed large oscillations over time with an increase in disparities between provinces. More than 50 per cent of maternal deaths could be reduced by adequate care at delivery and post-partum.

Specific issues in adolescent health are a cause for concern. Among them, alarming suicide rates (6.7 per 100,000 adolescents), overweight and obesity (affecting 28.6 and 5.9 per cent of adolescents respectively) and early pregnancy (1.5 per 1,000 girls for those 0-14 years old; 53

per 1,000 girls aged 15-19). Adolescent fertility rates remained high compared to general fertility observed in the country. In 2017, 13.4 per cent of newborns were from adolescents, a stable value over the last decades. Each year, there are about 2,500 newborns from mothers under 15 years old, which are cases mainly linked to sexual abuse. In most parts of the country, there are few services with adequate quality and confidentiality to address the care for adolescents.

Although formally Argentina has reached universal health coverage (focused on curative and rehabilitation health services) there is a very high level of inefficiency within each health sub-sector (public, social insurance, and private) and in the interaction among them. This has led to high levels of inequity, despite the country's gross expenditure on health.

In the educational field, the progress made in terms of coverage was not accompanied by improvements in school trajectories or in the quality of learning. Significant differences remain in investment levels among provinces. For example, Tierra del Fuego province had an annual expenditure per student of around US\$1,500 whereas Salta province's annual expenditure remained around \$US\$320.

Dropout - mainly at the secondary level - and school lag continued to affect a significant proportion of children and adolescents. An estimated 463,045 adolescents aged 12 to 17 did not attend school, and only one in two finished secondary education within the regular education system. There were also large inequalities in learning achievements depending on the socioeconomic origin of the students.

Expansion of initial level education remains a challenge to be addressed from an equity focus. The probability of attending school for children aged 3-4 from families in the highest wealth quintile is 15 to 20 percentage points higher compared to the lowest quintile.

Violence against children remained to be a source of concern. According to 2012 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 70 per cent of children aged 2-17 years were subjected to some violent method of discipline, and 50 per cent received physical punishment.

In 2014, 9,219 children without parental care lived under institutional care. While progress has subsequently been made, mainly through the enactment of a National Law 27,364 that creates a comprehensive plan to support young people in the transition between the protection system and autonomous living, bottlenecks persist. These include: insufficient capacity of services to detect, report and address cases of violence; weak reception systems; poor quality standards of institutions; and inadequate sector coordination. Protection measures involving the separation of a child from his or her parents, conducted by the administrative or judicial authority, do not always include procedural safeguards to identify the best interests of the child before taking these major decisions.

In the international arena, 2018 was a year marked in Argentina by the organization of the G20, which allowed UNICEF to form a close partnership with the Ministry of Social Development, who led the discussions in the Development Working Group. This presented a major opportunity to UNICEF to globally boost the visibility of early childhood development on the global political agenda. As part of the preparation for the G20 Summit, UNICEF also participated in numerous engagement groups such as the Civil 20 (C20), to push global leaders to listen to the proposals and demands of civil society; the Business 20 (B20), to create consensus among business leaders, international organizations and civil society on how the

priorities set by the G20 should be implemented; and the Youth 20 (Y20), to debate on the right to participation and education.

UNICEF Argentina's risk profile was proactively updated in February and July 2018. Out of the twelve enterprise risk management areas, financial and economic environment continued to represent a major risk. This was due to the potential of the uncertain financial and economic situation with high inflation affecting programme implementation, fundraising capacities and staff retention.

The economic situation in 2018 affected UNICEF programme implementation and private fundraising and partnership (PFP) efforts also. On the one hand, available funds for programmes in 2018 in the local currency were increased due to devaluation. However, fiscal restrictions lowered governmental capacities to spend UNICEF funds as programmed, lowering local implementation. In this context, final implementation was 20 per cent lower than expected at the beginning of 2018. Workplans needed to be reviewed every quarter to adjust implementation funds, reaching a final rate of implementation of Other Resources of 94 per cent compared with the last revised workplan.

Fundraising activities were also affected by the economic situation. Although UNICEF continued to implement a successful fundraising strategy and generated a record gross income with 41 per cent increment from 2017 in local currency, the amount in US dollars was lower than in previous years (US\$32 million in 2018 compared with US\$36 million in 2017). The difficult context of annual inflation and devaluation of the local currency hampered efforts to sustain fundraising and sponsorships from the private sector, while it did not have too much influence yet on individual donor pledges. The upcoming election year and the uncertain progress of the economy are factors to be seriously considered by UNICEF Argentina.

Part 2: Major Results including in humanitarian action and gender, against the results in the Country Programme Documents

In a year marked by economic crisis, UNICEF continued to focus on influencing public policies and decentralized work. The aim remained to address existing child disparities by supporting national efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1,3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 16), contributing to key United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) results in the areas of sustainable and inclusive economic growth, protection and universal access to social services, citizenship and promotion of human rights, the environment and cooperation for sustainable development.

The UNICEF programme maintained a policy-oriented approach with a decentralized component to ensure concrete contributions to equity results while offering programme models for further nationwide replication and eventually adoption in national policies. During 2018, this dual central/local approach benefited from greater inter-sector work around the second decade of life, UNICEF Argentina's flagship theme, with support of evidence generation, wide-reaching communication/social mobilization efforts and a successful fundraising function.

Goal area 1: Every child survives and thrives

Early childhood development policies

UNICEF's evidence-generation, advocacy, policy dialogue and technical assistance contributed to strengthening the National Early Childhood Plan and provincial policies and the development of a comprehensive National Strategy. UNICEF focused on the three-pillars of the system of ECD policies: time, services and resources that families need for the provision of child care. This "Diamond Model" approach, which includes a strong gender equality focus, was developed jointly with a public-private partnership perspective.

Evidence generation (through the evaluation report of the ECD programme's effects in Buenos Aires city with specific recommendations) and the technical assistance and advocacy efforts with the National Secretary of Childhood, Adolescence and Family (SENNAF) generated commitment by SENNAF to move towards a more comprehensive approach to improve the National Early Childhood Plan. As a result of UNICEF's contribution, a new proposal for a comprehensive strategy was elaborated, to be implemented in 2019. At the legislative level, UNICEF produced evidence and provided technical assistance to support policy and normative decisions to guarantee parents' right to have time for child care. A draft bill was presented to extend the paternity leave, with discussion in Parliament expected to take place in 2019. The challenge remained in developing longer and shared family leave and extending the coverage and quality of educational and child care services for 0-3 year olds at national level.

In the international arena, UNICEF Argentina collaborated closely with the UNICEF headquarters (HQ) the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office to advocate for positioning early childhood development (ECD) as a top priority in the G20 summit. As a result of UNICEF global advocacy, a G20 Strategy Initiative for ECD - including a commitment to track investment - was approved, and ECD was included in the leaders' final communique for the first time.

Additionally, UNICEF developed a strategic partnership with media (to advocate about early childhood development and poverty. In line with #EarlyMomentsMatter global campaign, UNICEF Argentina also generated a Father's Day strategy to talk about parental leave licenses and the importance of the first 1,000 days of life.

Newborn and maternal health

UNICEF's initiative on 'Safe and Family-Centred Maternities' (SFCM), aimed at a cultural transformation of perinatal services to improve their quality and enhance a rights-based approach continued to expand in 2018 to 15 new maternities in five provinces, emphasizing the incorporation of intercultural practices in perinatal care. The initiative benefited more than 36,523 mothers and newborns. Through a public-private partnership promoted by UNICEF with provincial health ministry's two additional maternal residences in the provinces of Córdoba and Misiones were inaugurated, on top of the 24 existing ones, benefitting almost 9,000 newborns every year.

To ensure sustainability, its further expansion is being handed-over to the provincial Ministries of Health. UNICEF worked at the national level to reinforce the political decision to guarantee compliance with Law 25,929 on "Respected Delivery", passed in 2004. For the first time since its regulation in 2015, the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Human Rights Secretary carried out actions together at the national level to promote the adoption of 'Safe and Family-Centred Maternities' and initiated a survey in 41 maternities in five prioritized provinces to evaluate the care using a rights-based approach.

The successful experience of SFCM in Argentina is being expanded to Paraguay. UNICEF Argentina continued its work on capacity building and technical assistance activities to the neighbouring country, which has reached 208 health workers so far.

Adolescent health

During 2018, UNICEF contributed to strengthen the centrality of adolescent health as a key national policy priority through evidence generation, policy-dialogue and technical and financial assistance. UNICEF supported the implementation of the National Plan to Prevent Adolescent Unintended Pregnancy in 12 out of the 24 provinces. One of the main UNICEF contributions in 2018 was the inclusion of Integral Health Advisories in Secondary Schools (IHA) as a national public policy, through advocacy and technical support.

At the national level, UNICEF developed jointly with the MoH a baseline study on the Integral Health Advisories, which provided elements to develop indicators for monitoring the implementation and the scaling up of the IHA initiative to 3,000 secondary schools. The Guidelines for the Implementation of Comprehensive Health Counselling in secondary schools were published to standardize the services nationwide. Finally, 1,250 pedagogical kits were acquired to improve the quality of sexual health counselling in IHA and primary care centres in 12 provinces.

UNICEF's advocacy on the content of the National Plan to Prevent Adolescent Unintended Pregnancy was successful in incorporating two critical issues: pregnancy below age 15 and sexual abuse. UNICEF's technical assistance was key to design and publish the guidelines for an inter-agency approach to sexual abuse and forced pregnancies in childhood and adolescence. This is a national inter-institutional protocol to improve the competencies of health and education workers to respond to cases of sexual abuse.

In the Jujuy province, the inter-sectoral protocol for the care of adolescents under 15 years of age was officially launched. In this context, with UNICEF's support, health teams were trained to handle adolescent pregnancy differentially and with a multi-sector approach (including education, social development and protection sectors).

To complement these efforts, UNICEF strengthened its position about sexual education as a human right, and boosted the campaign #ShowYourPower, in alliance with nine NGOs, to promote consensual and protected sex and prevent unintentional pregnancy among adolescents. The campaign reached 246,400 adolescents.

In Salta, Misiones, Jujuy and Chaco, UNICEF contributed to improve adolescent's access to health services with a rights-based approach by strengthening the management skills of health teams, facilitating the participation of adolescents in health policy discussions and strengthening accountability mechanisms. In these provinces, the offer of IHA increased from 68 to 263 in 2018, reaching 5,500 adolescents. With UNICEF support, Jujuy and Misiones provinces have developed specific protocols to assist pregnant adolescents, especially those under 15 years of age, who currently suffer the greatest violation of rights.

Through an innovative form of participation, 1,300 adolescents in four provinces participated in 13 fora, where they generated public policy proposals to address important health problems, such as pregnancy and suicide. These consultative councils also served as accountability mechanisms, where adolescents had a chance to interact with authorities and demand answers to their main concerns.

Child and adolescent obesity prevention

UNICEF contributed to the Government's decision to start the preparation and implementation of the National Health and Nutrition Survey, 14 years after the last one. UNICEF has been involved in the preparation phase of the survey, providing technical assistance, and delivering equipment (150 weighing scales, 150 length/height measuring boards, 160 tablets). The survey will sample 22,000 people. Preliminary results are expected by the beginning of 2019.

In the area of child obesity prevention, the inter-ministerial National Plan to prevent child overweight and obesity was presented to the President and is expected to be approved in 2019. The plan was elaborated with technical support from UNICEF and a group of experts.

As part of this strategy, and in collaboration with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), UNICEF provided scientific evidence and international standards, established a close dialogue with the National Ministry of Health to develop national regulation on food labelling, and provided technical assistance to legislators.

In terms of evidence generation, UNICEF supported the launch of the first report on "Overweight and obesity in children and adolescents according to data from the first level of care in Argentina" carried out by the National Direction of Health Promotion and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases. Findings of this study are expected to increase public awareness and provide knowledge to strengthen policy design.

Furthermore, during 2018, UNICEF supported the expansion of the National NGO Coalition for the Prevention of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity in Argentina, which gained 12 new members (in addition to the original 21). In this context, a document on "Healthy School Environments" was published with recommendations for public policy, and an internet platform was launched by UNICEF to boost communications among members (<http://unicefcampusvirtual.org.ar>).

In the context of the economic crisis and with the Ministry of Health being absorbed into the Ministry of Social Development, provinces anticipate having less resources available. UNICEF will continue playing an urgent advocacy role in 2019 to ensure investment and prioritization of children and adolescents' health to avoid compromising the achievements accomplished in the last decades.

Goal area 2: Every child learns

In 2018, UNICEF contributed to the progression of the three education outputs in the country programme in cooperation with seven provincial authorities, the national Government and other partners including civil society, academia and private sector. Addressing provincial and national education goals, in line with SDG4 and UNICEF's Global Education Strategic Plan, UNICEF implemented 16 strategic initiatives related to secondary, initial and primary educational levels, aimed at reducing gaps in access and completion of compulsory education and enhancing learning outcomes from a gender and equity-based perspective, reaching 8,600 adolescents and children, 1,300 professionals and 234 schools.

The strategic aim of the work in 2018 focused on influencing national policies and fostering replication of successful approaches that tackle main system bottlenecks to guarantee the right to education for every adolescent and child. UNICEF expanded innovative models and services

to improve adolescent's access to secondary education and learning outcomes as well as scaling up of quality early childhood services by reaching their formal adoption as public policies through provincial government resolutions.

Secondary education

In 2018, the technology-based rural secondary school initiative that provides access to secondary education in remote rural areas, led by UNICEF, was selected as one of the five global solutions of Generation Unlimited. The initiative was expanded in Chaco, Salta, Jujuy and Misiones provinces and implemented for the first time in Tucumán and Santiago del Estero, reaching 1,500 adolescents in 82 isolated communities. The major results were an increase of 76 per cent in enrolment (from 852 students in 2016 to 1,500 in 2018) and an increase of 62 per cent in graduates (from 215 in 2017 to 350 in 2018). The scale-up process of the model, already public policy in six provinces, continued with the opening of new schools in Jujuy, Salta and Misiones in early 2019, fully funded by provincial authorities. Having been selected as one of Generation Unlimited's global solutions has reinforced UNICEF Argentina's capacity to advocate for the expansion of the initiative to other provinces and beyond borders, promoting private sector engagement as well as adolescents' meaningful participation.

“Everyone to Secondary School”, a programme that has been proven to be successful in preventing school dropout among adolescents who have become parents by guaranteeing quality services in early childhood development (ECD), was replicated in Tucumán, a province with high adolescent pregnancy rate. With technical assistance, staff training, and provision of ECD equipment from UNICEF, 10 ECD services in secondary schools were opened, reaching 160 adolescent parents. The initiative is expected to be expanded in new provinces in 2019.

An innovative UNICEF-led pilot programme for encouraging the expansion of a new secondary education model started to be implemented in Tucumán, reaching 4,700 students in 16 schools. The new initiative, PLaNEA, develops a ‘skill for life’ approach, promoting active teaching-learning methodologies, problem solving, interdisciplinary approaches, and information technology literacy and programming. The programme will be expanded progressively grade by grade within each school and include 10 new schools in 2019.

At national level, UNICEF continued contributing to policy debate on secondary education with evidence generation and policy dialogue. UNICEF Argentina co-organized technical meetings to discuss research results on provincial innovative policies, in partnership with the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), the NGOs Fundación Voz and Fundación SES, the University of Buenos Aires, the economic and social policy think tank CIPPEC and the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning.

Initial education

In 2018, due to political changes and the current economic crisis, Argentina delayed the expansion of initial education services, a policy commitment from 2016. However, UNICEF continued providing technical assistance, policy dialogue and evidence-based studies to advocate for the expansion of services and quality improvement with a strong focus on equity.

With CIPPEC, UNICEF developed a comprehensive study “Map of initial education in Argentina” that examined five critical dimensions: coverage, type of services available, regulation, curricula and in-service teacher training in all 24 provinces. This input will play a critical role to promote ECD in the upcoming electoral agenda in 2019.

At provincial level, in cooperation with the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI), UNICEF implemented a programme to increase quality intercultural education in rural areas, reaching 1,220 children in 125 schools in vulnerable contexts in the Chaco province. The initiative has a strong intercultural perspective in indigenous contexts and is focused on improving teacher capacities on learning by playing and early literacy. The success of the initiative triggered other provincial authorities' commitment to replicate the programme in 2019 with UNICEF support.

Primary education: equity and inclusive education

UNICEF contributed to inclusive primary education policies through technical assistance and advocacy. Thanks to UNICEF technical support to the National Ministry of Education, the national policy on Integral Sexual Education (ISE) was strengthened and expanded, as a key component of the National Plan to Prevent Adolescent Unintended Pregnancies.

In 2018, UNICEF developed a monitoring system to fill the information gaps on ISE strategies and policy coverage across the country, to be fully functioning in 2019. In addition, UNICEF developed and disseminated a comprehensive study on good pedagogical and school management practices in ISE, aimed to improve and expand practices at school level.

An impact evaluation of the ISE National Programme from an equity and right perspective is being discussed with main stakeholders for 2020, which will provide data about how policies have impacted unintended adolescent pregnancy rates.

UNICEF also provided technical assistance at national level fostering equitable, quality and inclusive education, developing seven handbooks to promote the full integration of children and adolescents with disabilities from a children's right perspective.

Goal area 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

UNICEF supported public policies to prevent violence against children and sexual abuse and strengthened management systems of protection services contributing towards the achievement of SDG 16.2. Support to national and provincial juvenile justice reform was ensured by evidence generation and technical assistance, with a focus on alternative measures and reduction of incarcerations. Initiatives implemented by UNICEF during 2018 directly benefited more than 11,000 children, 5,800 parents and 5,300 social workers in the protection system.

Prevention of violence and sexual abuse

UNICEF's initiative to prevent maltreatment and gender-based violence through strengthening parental skills ("Crianza Sin Violencia"), was institutionalized as public policy in three provinces. The programme provides training and support to parents to improve their parental skills, promoting nurturing and safe familiar environments, with a gender perspective. It was implemented in 47 municipalities in coordination with social and grassroots organizations., benefiting more than 5,000 parents and primary caregivers, potentially improving conditions of care for more than 7,000 children.

In the area of sexual abuse, two main results were achieved with specific contributions from UNICEF. Firstly, a law reform was approved to improve access to justice in cases of sexual abuse (Nr. 27455/18). UNICEF provided technical advice to members of the national Congress in the Childhood Commission to establish that sexual crimes against children do not prescribe,

which was pending pursuant to the latest recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child to the Argentinian State.

A National Intersectoral Protocol on sexual abuse against children was approved, to improve the competencies of healthcare and education workers to respond to cases of sexual abuse. UNICEF promoted the development of the protocol, as part of UNICEF's support to the National Plan to Prevent Adolescent Unintended Pregnancy.

A factsheet on sexual violence against children was elaborated jointly with the National Programme of Victims of Violence under the National Ministry of Justice. Its dissemination was accompanied by a communication strategy on the International Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse, reaching more than 80,000 people primarily through social media. Figures obtained from administrative data showed the positive impact of the campaign against child sexual abuse, sponsored by UNICEF in 2017, with three times the regular number of calls received prior to this awareness-raising campaign.

UNICEF initiatives to prevent violence and sexual abuse were incorporated as specific contributions into the Spotlight Initiative on violence against women and femicide, an inter-agency collaboration led by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator.

Strengthening local protection systems

Through UNICEF's advocacy and technical assistance, the case management information system (Registro Unico Nominal-RUN) was scaled up from three to 10 provinces and became national public policy. It will be extended to 10 more in 2019, leading the way to its implementation nationwide. Through the implementation of the system, local and national child protection authorities established a new standard of registration of public interventions and responses aimed at ending violations of children's rights, which was a key recommendation of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to the Argentinian State.

As part of the implementation of RUN, UNICEF contributed to the approval of four protocols to guarantee an articulated and rights-based response to children victims of violence, abuse and neglect in La Pampa, Cordoba, Entre Rios and Jujuy.

Children without parental care

UNICEF worked closely with SENNAF, in cooperation with the NGO Doncel, on the promotion of the rights of adolescents living in alternative care institutions through the implementation of the recently approved National Law 27.364. The Law provides for mentoring and economic support to the more than 2,020 adolescents in transition from alternative care to independent adult life when they turn 18. UNICEF provided technical support to develop tools for the effective implementation including online courses for frontline workers, as well as accountability and monitoring of the Law through administrative follow-up procedures included in RUN. UNICEF was also the main financial supporter of the Forum of Adolescents without Parental Care "Mandate", with the objective of promoting the active involvement of more than 120 adolescents from 19 provinces, to gather their views regarding the implementation of the Law.

UNICEF continued supporting specific programmes promoting the autonomy of 4,455 adolescents living in institutions in six provinces, in coordination with Doncel. As part of the initiatives for fostering private sector engagement, six networks, involving 105 companies were established to promote labour inclusion. As a result, 125 first-job opportunities or training were offered to adolescents transitioning from residential care to independent life.

To overcome evidence gaps, UNICEF provided support to the National Secretariat for Children to carry out the third “Survey of Children without Parental Care”, and finalized two relevant studies to shed light on quality standards in residential institutions and to identify relevant experiences on family-based alternative care programmes. These will be key advocacy inputs to expand alternative care programmes to lower the number of children in institutions and to restore their right to live with a family.

Juvenile justice

UNICEF continued playing a leading role to promote a juvenile justice system according to international standards. In 2018, the strategy included the provision of technical assistance to national authorities in two law reform projects to analyse their alignment with the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, evidence generation, implementation of two pilot experiences in Córdoba and Buenos Aires, and support to provincial systems where nine protocols are being developed.

UNICEF invested in evidence generation to support discussion on and decision-making regarding the Draft Legislation on Juvenile Justice at the National Congress to take place in 2019. A study on “Alternative Measures to Judicial Prosecution and Imprisonment of Adolescents” and a national survey “Voices of Adolescents Deprived of Liberty” were launched with significant impact on public debates on the subject, in particular on social media (two million exposures to key messages). The study interviewed 522 adolescents in 22 centres covering 40 per cent of the total number of adolescents deprived of liberty. Findings of this study complemented the ones highlighted in the report prepared by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which received inputs and follow up from UNICEF.

At a national level, UNICEF continued providing technical assistance to SENNAF to open and strengthen specialized centres for admission of children in conflict with the law (CADs). The CADs in Catamarca and Rio Negro were strengthened, while Misiones, Tucumán, La Rioja, Salta have committed to open new ones.

At provincial level, UNICEF strengthened two pilot initiatives with provincial authorities of Córdoba and Buenos Aires to implement alternative measures to imprisonment for children in conflict with the penal law.

In cooperation with a local NGO, UNICEF continued strengthening the provincial juvenile justice system in six provinces to change practices of 600 members of the executive and judicial branches that have influence over the situation of 2,070 young offenders.

Overall efforts to promote alternative measures show incipient, but promising results. According to national authorities, UNICEF’s technical assistance at provincial level contributed to a reduction of 12 per cent in the rate of adolescents deprived from liberty between 2015 and 2018 following national official figures.

The UNICEF-led initiative “national network of judges committed to the protection of children’s rights”, was consolidated and expanded during 2018, with 24 judges and prosecutors involved, becoming a relevant critical mass to support advocacy for the promotion and fulfilment of children’s rights.

The Concluding Observations and Recommendations made by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child were widely disseminated by UNICEF through the year, reaching 130,000 accounts on social media, generating wide coverage in the media and mentions by influencers.

Goal area 5: Every child has an equitable chance in life

Social protection system

UNICEF advocacy, evidence generation and technical and financial support, in cooperation with national and provincial counterparts, contributed to expand social protection benefits to an increasing number of children who were previously excluded.

With regard to the social protection system, a two-level strategy was defined. At policy level, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development, National Social Security Agency (ANSES) and selected universities, UNICEF carried out and presented in 2018 a study on the universal child allowance. It identified bottlenecks and barriers impeding its access by more than one million children, these barriers are mostly related to rigid eligibility criteria, dropping out due to failure in the fulfilment of conditions, difficulties to meet the requirements for specific population groups. Ensuring access can be particularly challenging for migrants, children without parental care, families with non-traditional structures and for women caring for six or more children.

The results-informed high-level technical dialogue and public policy recommendations were included in the Government's agenda and ANSES's reform plan in 2017. Debate focused on the role of the conditions which cause around 300,000 annual drop-outs of vulnerable children and adolescents (due mainly to difficulties in the certification process). Pursuant to this, in 2018, UNICEF co-hosted with ANSES an International Seminar to discuss the role of conditions and presented a policy brief with evidence and recommendations to advocate for a non-conditional scheme. In 2019, the ANSES Executive Director will participate in an International Conference on Universal Child Grants to showcase their considerations regarding the re-design of the programme.

At the decentralized level, UNICEF played a key role in technically and financially supporting ANSES in the inclusion of children living in indigenous communities and remote rural areas into the universal child allowance. This was possible through the implementation of innovative monitoring tools and the deployment of a team specially trained for the identification of excluded children on-the-ground in the Salta, Chaco and Tucuman provinces. Active search operations in these three provinces reached 17,643 children, resulting in 6,237 inclusions. These were both of children who were eligible but lacked coverage, and children who are in risk of lose their access to the programme due to difficulties in complying with the certification of conditions. Given fiscal constraints that jeopardize the continuity of this project, UNICEF signed an agreement with ANSES to further expand financial and technical support in 2019 to conduct these active search operations in 10 provinces, aiming to reach 80,000 children.

A pilot initiated in 2017 to expand social protection coverage for children with disabilities in Entre Rios province continued in 2018. Together with three ministries, the Disability Provincial Institute and civil society organizations, UNICEF undertook a situation analysis, provided capacity building in the social model of disability, and established an inter-ministerial working table. Active search operations on scattered rural areas reached 53 vulnerable children with disabilities (95 people in total) who, as a result, received the Disability Certificate, which is the entry point for children and families to access to a continuum of special services and monetary support. The project will scale-up to two additional provinces in 2019, and advocacy efforts will

continue to transform this initiative in a national policy during 2019-2020.

Child poverty measurement

In response to the current economic downturn and the possible negative impact on families with children and a lack of an official multidimensional child poverty measure, UNICEF carried out two studies.

The first was a report on monetary and non-monetary child poverty with a proposed multidimensional methodology, the third in the series of publications on this topic. The second was qualitative research to analyse the effects of the economic situation on children from low-income households. In 2019, UNICEF will use this information to advocate to increase public investment on children and to reach consensus on an official multidimensional measurement of poverty that allows tracking of SDG 1. In addition to this study at national level, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the government of Mendoza province to publicly present an official measure of multidimensional poverty, and is currently working on defining public policies responses.

UNICEF's study on the new measurement of multidimensional child poverty based on official indicators had outstanding results in terms of coverage (300 stories in 24 hours) and reinforced the position of UNICEF as a central actor in the national debate about the topic. UNICEF was involved as a knowledge partner in the awarded project "Hanger of Future", a multiplatform initiative focused on poverty that covered stories from a human rights perspective, led by La Nación news agency. Additionally, UNICEF implemented a communication strategy to promote cash transfer programmes such as the universal child allowance, highlighting its impact on vulnerable populations.

Social investment

In line with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's recommendations and General Observation No.19, UNICEF's advocacy and technical assistance resulted in commitments by the Ministry of Finance to institutionalize Child-focused Expenditure Measurement (C-PEM) by 2019, including an Annex on public investment in children in the 2020 Budget Message. Also, the National and Consolidated Public-Sector C-PEM series were updated after several years of discontinuation, including specific information on ECD investment, which was (presented at a regional seminar co-hosted by UNICEF).

Under the framework of UNICEF's global thematic funding on child poverty and on public finance for children, UNICEF Argentina and UNICEF Armenia promoted an exchange of experience between Governments. As a result, Argentina's experience on C-PEM contributed to promote and validate this agenda with the Armenian Ministry of Finance. Furthermore, an additional office within Argentina's Ministry of Finance - the National Budget Office- was sensitized on the importance of embarking in the institutionalization of C-PEM and a technical cooperation work-plan on this was agreed for 2019. Additionally, first steps were taken to advance South-South cooperation on public finance for children with Brazil and Mexico in 2019.

UNICEF costing exercises contributed to public policy definitions, such as the enactment of a National Law that establishes a comprehensive plan to support young people in the transition between the protection system and autonomous living. Initial parliamentary debates that took place in 2018 on the expansion of parental leave were also supported by a costing tool developed by UNICEF. An analysis on social investment from an SDG perspective was also

carried out and presented to public authorities.

UNICEF provided technical orientation and financially supported the work at provincial level to advise policy decisions directed to protect and improve public resources for children in Santa Fe, Chaco, Entre Rios, San Juan and Tucuman. In the province of Buenos Aires, C-PEM was put in the Social Cabinet agenda and there is an ongoing costing study of the system which will allow authorities to better protect the rights of children and adolescents.

Finally, C-PEM work was key to advocate for the safeguard of funds directed to children under the current negative context and fiscal restraints.

Monitoring child rights

National and provincial authorities, along with civil society, improved their information and instruments to develop and implement monitoring and evaluation systems on the rights of children with UNICEF support. Following their formal commitment to conduct MICS6, in 2018 the Government and UNICEF established the technical and directive committees, who will commence work in 2019. Special attention is being considered for indicators that are critical to further measure SDGs focused on children and adolescents. The National Bureau of Statistics, which initially committed to be the implementing partner to conduct the MICS, will have a quality assurance-technical role throughout the process.

On the other hand the Government published the draft results of the National Child Labour survey, supported by UNICEF and ILO in 2017. Further evidence from the survey will be generated by UNICEF and ILO in 2019 on child labour determinants and on the prevalence and causes of domestic and childcare labour activities from a gender perspective.

Aligned with UNICEF's Data Framework, UNICEF continued to support evidence generation in six provincial Child Rights Observatories. A review on the contribution of the Observatories' work reinforced their importance at sub-national level for evidence-generation and public policy advocacy.

UNICEF continued to advocate for and generate social mobilization initiatives directly and with other key actors to promote the designation of the National Ombudsperson for Children, pending for 14 years and still delayed due to political constraints. The Child-Specific Ombudsperson of the province of Santa Fe, supported by UNICEF, became an effective reference throughout the process regarding institutional design.

Finally, UNICEF launched a Tableau website on children's relevant statistics on health, social protection, education and special protection at the lowest possible level of disaggregation, to make information available to the general public and inform policy decision-making.

Cross cutting areas

UNICEF achieved important progress in mobilization and engagement of society for children's and adolescent's rights through multiple strategies. These included evidence-based advocacy, awareness-raising initiatives, the promotion of adolescent digital citizenship, successful resource mobilization, engagement of more than 300,000 pledge donors and other UNICEF supporters, and strengthening alliances with the private sector to accelerate results for children.

Public advocacy

In line with the 2016-2020 Country Programme, and inspired by the Cause Framework architecture, UNICEF Argentina developed its third Public Advocacy Plan that established priority issues to advocate, mobilize and promote social and individual change during the year. Early childhood development and adolescence were the key priorities selected.

UNICEF Argentina's communication and public advocacy strategy surpassed its 2018 goals with 800 million exposures to key messages through audio-visual, graphic and social media, with five million people engaged. By producing compelling equity-focused analyses, generating inspiring content and advocating with key influencers, UNICEF positioned the agenda of ECD and adolescence in the media and in the policy and public debate.

Adolescent unintentional pregnancy, secondary education, juvenile justice, poverty, obesity prevention, and the right of adolescents to participate were some of the main topics of evidence-based advocacy regarding the second decade. The campaign #YoViElFuturo, raised awareness about these themes and sparked discussion through traditional and social media, with more than 57 million accounts reached.

UNICEF continued to be a trustworthy source of information on juvenile justice and poverty, and reopened the social talk about adolescent's rights with their own voices. Through an intense advocacy strategy and a bold voice, UNICEF was present in public debates around adolescents in conflict with the law by amplifying their messages. The information on a new measurement of multidimensional child poverty based on official indicators was covered widely by the media (300 stories in 24 hours) and reinforced the position of UNICEF as a central actor in the national debate about SDG 1 on ending poverty and the strategies to achieve it.

UNICEF positioned children's digital citizenship in the public and media agenda through evidence-based initiatives, and implementation of strategies to promote adolescents' right to citizenship, participation and commitment to an active social role. In total, 465,000 adolescents benefitted from activities to promote their digital citizenship.

In summary, UNICEF continues to be very well positioned in Argentina to spread its messages through traditional and social media and to mobilize society in favour of child rights. This was reflected by the 4,754 stories in which UNICEF Argentina was mentioned until November 20th, generating 466,566,648 total impressions. UNICEF digital channels also had a notable growth, especially Instagram (3.5 times increase in followers in the last year). To reinforce its digital communication, UNICEF Argentina also launched a new website more focused on the user's experience, providing a friendly access to quality content and stories and allowing users to share them on social networks more easily.

Resource mobilization

UNICEF continued to implement a successful fundraising strategy that, despite the serious economy crisis, generated a 41 per cent increase in local currency, surpassing US\$32 million. This happened in a difficult context of an annual inflation of 45 per cent and devaluation of local currency of 112 per cent. This achievement was possible through a successful pledge donor strategy, strengthening and developing alliances and special events, and boosting major donors and legacies. UNICEF Argentina achieved a record of more than 300,000 pledge donors, being one of the top six countries with the largest database of donors in the world.

This fundraising effort allowed UNICEF Argentina to fully fund the local country programme through Other Resources, while assigning almost 70 per cent of the total funds raised to

Regular Resources, emergencies and to Regional Thematic Funding.

Fundraising standards achieved during 2018 improved from those reported in 2017 in terms of: a) donors' diversification, with the largest donation representing 1 per cent of total income; b) flexibility of funding with 99 per cent of the funds were not earmarked) and; c) predictability, with 95 per cent of the income from sustainable sources.

UNICEF Argentina resource mobilization channels to raise awareness and engage donors, private companies, foundations and opinion leaders on adolescent's rights, a key programme priority. Through regular communication with pledge donors, the UNICEF donors' magazine, private sector engagement initiatives (monetary and non-monetary) and special events such as the telethon "Un Sol para los Chicos", Gala Dinner and marathon, over 8,045,000 people were involved in one or more initiatives during the year.

Private sector engagement

UNICEF Argentina deepened the integration of private sector engagement (funds, core assets, influence, reach, child footprint) aligned with the country programme priorities in the areas of health (obesity prevention and new-born health), education (ICT), protection (transition to autonomy and child trafficking prevention) and social inclusion. Promising outcomes were achieved particularly in ECD policies, with private sector advocacy involvement an important contributor.

UNICEF Argentina participated in the Business 20 (B20) Education and Employment Taskforce, as a full member and contributing to the policy paper submitted to the G20 that was finally approved. UNICEF Argentina commenced provision of technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice to develop the national action plan on business and human rights, to be launched in 2019.

Part 3: Lessons learned and constraints

Lessons learned

Focus on results and theory of change: influencing national policy making and scaling up innovative models

The programme theory of change maintained a policy-oriented approach with a decentralized component to ensure concrete contribution to equity results while offering programme models for further nationwide replication and eventually adoption in national policies.

The core of programme results at national level were related to supporting the Government's reform and planning processes particularly on quality of secondary education, juvenile justice, adolescents' health and social protection. Findings from UNICEF-supported evidence generation and studies informed the Universal Child Allowance's reform plan and the debate on the role of conditions. A notable result was the work to extend the coverage of Argentina's Universal Child Allowance to enrol excluded children. In Salta Chaco and Tucuman Provinces UNICEF assisted in identifying and including more than 17,643 children.

Another relevant contribution at legislative and policy level was the support provided to the juvenile justice reform through high quality international expertise, and to law reform to improve

access to justice in cases of sexual abuse. Additionally, technical assistance was provided for the design and implementation of Argentina's first National Plan to Prevent Adolescent Unintended Pregnancy and to the National Plan to Prevent Obesity.

UNICEF also directed efforts towards addressing inequalities in 14 of the 24 Argentina's provinces, designing and implementing replicable models to strengthen supply and demand of quality services. Some of UNICEF flagships model interventions that have become public policy included: provision of information and communication technology-based secondary education to young people in isolated rural communities; expansion of gender-responsive health services to prevent adolescent pregnancies and suicide; development of a model to expand coverage of cash transfer programmes in remote rural areas through active search operations and; scale-up of case management information systems for child protection services.

Inter-sectoral approach: focus on ECD, adolescents and gender programming

Intensive inter-sectoral work in ECD, at national and international level was promoted during 2018. In the international arena, UNICEF Argentina strongly advocated for the inclusion of ECD at the G20 Summit. As a result of UNICEF's global, regional and national advocacy, the final G20 communique included a declaration on the issue for the first time ever. At a national level UNICEF continued strengthening the Early Childhood Plan and provincial policies and contributed to develop a comprehensive ECD National Strategy.

A specific gender equality focus was included in ECD through the "Diamond Model", to advocate changing social norms and generating new family leave legislation with high private sector engagement. A draft bill was presented to extend paternity leave and discussion in Parliament is expected to take place in 2019. The gender equality focus was also reinforced through UNICEF's efforts to prevent adolescent unintended pregnancy, support integral sexual education, and prevention of violence and sexual abuse, all linked to the UN and European Union Spotlight Initiative.

UNICEF Argentina placed adolescents at the centre of the country programme 2016-2020. Several strategies were utilized to promote public policies and services for adolescents with a holistic approach: generating evidence and public advocacy, developing innovative models and promoting the participation of adolescents. Launched in 2017, UNICEF's public position on adolescents was a key milestone to boost the intersectoral work, that was reinforced in 2018 with the communication campaign #Yovielfuturo.

Knowledge generation included technical guidelines and a baseline study on adolescent health's advisory services at national level, upcoming research on adolescent suicide, study cases on secondary education reform at provincial level, compilation of good practices in ISE and focused studies on juvenile justice.

Advocacy continued in the areas of juvenile justice, with the promotion of a national law in line with international standards, and in health with multiple initiatives to prevent adolescents' pregnancy. The promotion of quality and inclusive education, support to secondary education reform, and implementation of the first law in the region to guarantee rights for children without parental care transitioning to adult were also important policy results.

At provincial level, UNICEF was active in designing and implementing replicable models to improve adolescents' service provision and demand. These involved a range of critical issues

including: adolescent pregnancy; suicide and obesity prevention through health advisory services; preventing school drop-out and improving learning outcomes in secondary education; promoting the autonomy of adolescents and their transition to independent life through labour insertion opportunities, and; the opening of alternative services for adolescents in conflict with the law.

UNICEF continued placing adolescent's digital citizenship on the public agenda as a key element to promote their right to communication and active participation. Around 465,000 adolescents committed themselves to social change through innovative experiences, such as the digital coexistence programme, global initiatives like U-Report, a partnership with Facebook, and engagement initiatives like "It's not cool to share". UNICEF positioned itself as a reference in this field, generating information for the media and the public on adolescents' use of the internet and social networks, and providing evidence for decision makers and social leaders to inform public policies.

Partnership engagement

Partnership development remained an important function of UNICEF Argentina given its dual programme and fundraising nature. UNICEF deepened its integration of private sector engagement with programmatic priorities. Alliances were strengthened with the private sector (30 active relationships) to maximize their full potential to accelerate results for children in key areas of secondary education, digital citizenship, CED and healthy nutrition.. In the latter two, concrete results were achieved for children: a draft national regulation on product labelling and large companies' modification of internal regulation on parental leave.

Partnerships with other stakeholders such as civil society, professional networks and academia were also strengthened during 2018. Ongoing partnerships with national, provincial governments and a total of 48 NGOs and four universities contributed to programmatic results in 14 provinces, including institutional relations with Supreme Courts of Justice in five provinces. UNICEF supported the national child-rights-network of judges, the national network of ombudspersons, and the network of journalists committed to children's rights, which act as a critical mass to support UNICEF advocacy.

UNICEF Argentina continued being an active member of the UN Country Team during 2018, chairing the social protection resultsgroup, closely cooperating with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), ILO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN WOMEN in the development of the Spotlight Initiative, with PAHO on obesity prevention, and with the ILO on developing specific studies on child labour.

Argentina business modality

UNICEF Argentina continued to have an innovative office profile with a dual and integrated nature of programme and fundraising, supported by an advanced communication and partnership-building function. The success of this approach was reflected in UNICEF Argentina's capacity to widen its partnership base beyond traditional Government allies and civil society, embracing a growing number of media outlets, influencers, and individual and corporate donors.

In line with the organization's global cause framework, an approach that has strongly inspired and influenced the work locally, UNICEF Argentina plans to ensure a systematic search for integration to widen its audience for advocacy, social mobilization and fundraising purposes.

With a loyalty base of 300,000 individuals and large group of private sector partners, the investment in connecting high impact programme results to fundraising strategies will continue throughout the country programme. An example is provided by the ten-hour long telethon “Un sol para los Chicos”, as well as marathons and other massive events, where programme priorities are embedded in a fundraising and communication strategy, packaged to reach nationwide audience.

Private fundraising and partnership continued to be embedded within all programme components, thus contributing to mobilizing and engaging private partners towards children’s rights through a systematic implementation of the Child Rights in Business Principles. This included, for example, generating dialogue with the food and beverage industry to tackle obesity, involving telecommunication and information technology players to develop internet-based secondary education and partnering with private companies to advocate for ECD policies.

Contributions to UNICEF globally

Beyond its strive to accomplish the planned country programme results, UNICEF Argentina actively participated in global initiatives such as the PFP Think Thank, Supporter Engagement Group, Private Sector Engagement Group or Digital First Initiative. It also contributed to global reflections and strategies design on complex emerging issues such as obesity, child and adolescent suicide, digital citizenship and adolescent pregnancy. UNICEF Argentina also boosted South-South cooperation, including social investment with Armenia and newborn health with Paraguay.

In 2018, Argentina contributed to UNICEF globally through sharing innovative approaches with 21 short or medium-term missions or stretch assignments. Specifically, these were in the areas of second decade programming, adolescent health, social policy, newborn health, private sector engagement, resource mobilization strategies, special events digital strategies, results-based management, operations, and emergencies.

Looking forward

UNICEF Argentina will continue improving its business modality, based on a dynamic and synergic integration between its programme, fundraising and communication components. The previous experience and the external operating environment offer tremendous opportunity to materialize the spirit and the content of the global Strategic Plan 2018-2021, particularly its call for a whole UNICEF approach vision.

The expansion of adolescent’s services and a greater emphasis on the second decade of life will continue as the flagship theme for programme convergence, with a focus on the most disadvantaged and the “no child left behind” imperative. The programme will keep a policy-oriented approach yet with a marked decentralized component to ensure concrete contribution to equity results while offering programme models for further nationwide replication.

The launch of Generation Unlimited and the selection of the ICT school model as one of the Generation Unlimited solution provided UNICEF Argentina further opportunity to position the adolescent agenda into public debate. The initiative will be expanded to other provinces while other practical solutions implemented in Argentina could be also improved, nurtured and scaled up in the future. These include: adolescent health advisories services linked with secondary-age education; along with adolescent participation in defining health services, and promoting digital citizenship, both linked with adolescent empowerment. Pending topics to advance the

second decade agenda will have to be further discussed in the upcoming country programme, such as skills for learning, employability, and decent work, areas where UNICEF Argentina is ready to engage.

UNICEF Argentina expects to continue contributing to the implementation of the agency's work globally with private sector engagement to accelerate commitments for children in the SDGs by 2030. The efforts will be directed towards prominent equity-related child and adolescent issues as well as new emerging themes that require political attention and policy developments, such as obesity prevention or ECD policies.

The development of a new country programme, to be presented in 2021, will provide UNICEF Argentina with a significant opportunity to rethink and refine programme theories of change, incorporate innovative approaches, and review the structure needed to achieve planned results. The successful operation of PFP and its modus operandi will have to be addressed, in collaboration with UNICEF Headquarters and Regional Office, given the ever-increasing proportion of resources that the UNICEF Argentina is raising beyond the needs of the country programme, through the immense generosity of donors from within the country.