UNICEF Annual Report 2015

Bolivia

Executive Summary

At the mid-term implementation mark of the Bolivia Country Programme 2013-2017 (CP), President Evo Morales took office for a third term, until 2020, with a new Government, as of January 2015. For the UNICEF Bolivia Country Office, this represented an opportunity to ensure continuity of the work initiated during the programme cycle and support the change process in line with President Morales’ Patriotic Agenda 2025, which outlines the Government’s long term vision for Bolivia’s development.

In view of the extensive Country Office review process undertaken with the Government of Bolivia (GOB) to align the CP with UNICEF’s Strategic Plan 2014-2017 (SP) at the end of 2014, it was decided not to conduct a specific mid-term review (MTR), but instead, accelerate implementation of the CP, especially at the sub-national level. Priorities included: i) strengthening the generation, analysis and strategic use of evidence on key child rights issues to change public policies in favour of children and adolescents; and ii) continuing the development and implementation of cost-effective models targeting the most vulnerable children and communities. In addition, UNICEF Bolivia took stock of the shift in programme strategies within the current CP, moving from service delivery to technical assistance and upstream work, which was initiated to provide input for next year’s discussions on the upcoming CP 2018-2022.

Important achievements of the CP in 2015 were:

• Data generation and analysis: UNICEF Bolivia updated the situation analysis (SITAN), including, for the first time, three regional SITANs. Additionally, other important initiatives to support the generation and analysis of evidence included: i) a multi-dimensional poverty and social budgeting analysis; ii) a baseline study on early childhood development (ECD) based on middle-income countries (MIC) and a national study on maternal and neonatal mortality. The data generated will be validated and disseminated during the first quarter of 2016.

• Public policy and legal framework: UNICEF Bolivia supported: i) development of the national plan to prevent maternal and neonatal mortality, ii) validation of the national policy to prevent and eradicate child labour and iii) promulgation of a Departmental Law in Chuquisaca to promote and protect children’s rights.

• Emergencies and humanitarian aid: UNICEF Bolivia provided critical support to flooding victims in communities in Pando Department in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); nutrition; education; and child protection. Within this framework, training on gender-based violence in emergencies was also provided in different afflicted regions.

The most significant shortfalls in 2015 were:

• Delays in the implementation of the new Child and Adolescent Code (the Code), particularly regarding implementation of the national survey on child labour, and the development of a reliable and consistent social protection system to prevent and eradicate child labour.
• Given that sub-national elections were held during the second quarter of 2015 and there was a consequent turnover of staff in June, significant delays were experienced in the signing of annual work plans (AWP), which slowed programme implementation. This also impacted the potential for leveraging social investment for children and adolescents within the sub-national planning process.

• The funding situation continued to be a concern due to the departure of major donors from Bolivia.

Throughout 2015, UNICEF Bolivia continued to strengthen its strategic collaborations and partnerships with public, civil society and private sector institutions. A mapping of the private sector and civil society was concluded this year and provided a better understanding and overview of existing and potential strategic alliances. Specific focus was placed on interactions with the private sector, which resulted in the finalisation of UNICEF Bolivia’s Integrated Corporate Engagement (ICE) strategy. The Bolivian Private Entrepreneurs Confederation (CEPB), as well as the Federations of Private Entrepreneurs of Cochabamba and Tarija (FEPC and FEPT, respectively) through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with UNICEF, committed to promoting Children’s Rights and Business Principles (CRBP) among its partners, and to help mobilise resources for children in emergencies. Furthermore, key partnerships with Tigo, Bisa Bank, and ATB were strengthened and new prospects will be secured in 2016.

Moving forward, UNICEF Bolivia’s priorities for 2016 include: i) continuing support to build awareness and implement the new Child and Adolescent Code; ii) validating and disseminating the findings of national and regional SITANs; iii) planning emergency preparedness and response as a consequence of the potential impacts of the El Niño phenomenon; and iv) initiating discussions and processes to prepare for the next CP for 2018-2022.

**Humanitarian Assistance**

In 2015 Bolivia continued to experience natural disasters due to the consequences of climate change. These recurring emergencies always put at risk the achievement of results for children at all levels, including the community, social services, and supply chain. For example, the Department of Pando was heavily impacted by floods, which affected 578 families (2,200 persons) in rural areas.

In line with UNICEF’s core commitments for children in humanitarian action (CCC) and the revised results framework of the Country Programme action plan (CPAP), including specific outputs in emergency preparedness and response, UNICEF Bolivia worked closely with the Vice-Ministry of Civil Defence and the sub-national government of Pando to support response efforts.

**Nutrition:** UNICEF Bolivia supported 1,822 families and 2,200 children under five years of age through initiatives such as:

i) analysis of secondary data on the nutritional status of children under five;

ii) assessment of nutritional knowledge, skills, and practices, as well as consumption of nutritional supplements at the household level;

iii) institutional and technical strengthening at the health centre level; and

iv) home visits to promote nutrition and hygiene practices.

**WASH:** UNICEF Bolivia supported emergency responses in the municipalities of Cobija, Pando, Trinidad, San Javier, Loreto, San Andres, and San Ignacio de Moxos in the Departments of Pando and Beni. Interventions included:

i) promotion and strengthening of good hygiene practices in households;

ii) provision of essential supplies, such as ceramic water filters and
hygiene kits for schools; and iii) social mobilisation to improve hygiene practices.

**Education:** The situation in the education sector was critical, given that classrooms were the only shelter available for affected families, thus suspending educational activities for three weeks. Activities supported by UNICEF Bolivia included: i) psycho-social care in the learning environment; ii) capacity-building in psychosocial support for volunteers; iii) provision of educational bag-packs; iv) development of capacity-building materials for teachers; and v) mapping of humanitarian actors in the education sector. Three sub-national working groups were established with work plans (Tarija, Beni and Pando) and by the end of the year all departments had committed to the establishment of sector working groups in nutrition to strengthen emergency preparedness and response.

**Child Protection:** UNICEF Bolivia supported the implementation of the initiative “A New Sun for Community Wellbeing”, which included the following activities: i) provision of psychosocial support to more than 800 children in pre- and primary school; ii) specialised training for volunteers; iii) training on child protection in emergencies for professionals working in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and emergency preparedness/response; and iv) awareness-building on the minimum normative guidelines on child protection in emergencies for social services workers of the four sub-national governments of Pando, Beni, Santa Cruz, and La Paz.

UNICEF Bolivia plays an important role in ensuring the coordination of the humanitarian response and is co-lead in the thematic groups of nutrition, WASH and education under the leaderships of the sectoral ministries.

Areas in which UNICEF Bolivia faced challenges were: i) effective and efficient implementation of the new emergency preparedness and response law; ii) the link between climate change disaster risk response, resilience, and emergency response; iii) coordination between sectors at the national and sub-national levels; and iv) the capacity of counterparts.

This year UNICEF Bolivia also engaged in a joint initiative with the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department’s Disaster Preparedness Programme (DIPECHO), under the leadership of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), focusing on strengthening resilience at the community and service levels in the areas of WASH and nutrition. The programme targeted 12 municipalities in the departments of La Paz and Beni, and benefitted 200 families.

In relation to the potential impact of the El Niño phenomenon in 2016, it is anticipated that this episode will be one of the strongest in 65 years. VIDEI estimates that some 100,000 families in 109 municipalities will be affected by excessive precipitation and/or drought. Thus UNICEF Bolivia began working on an emergency preparedness plan in collaboration with the sector working groups at national and sub-national levels. Trainings were conducted, emergency response plans were developed, essential supplies were deployed and fundraising activities were initiated, particularly with the private sector.

Partners in the area of humanitarian assistance included: VIDEI and line ministries, subnational governments and services as well as NGOs, such as Sumaj Huasi and Aldeas Infantiles SOS. Funding was provided by the UK and Swedish National Committees, as well as by the UN emergency cash grant-funding mechanism.
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<tr>
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<td>Annual management plan</td>
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<td>Annual work plan</td>
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<td>C4D</td>
<td>Communication for Development</td>
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<td>National Committee for Persons with Disabilities</td>
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<td>DHS</td>
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<td>DIPECHO</td>
<td>European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department’s Disaster Preparedness Programme</td>
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<td>DUE</td>
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<td>Food and Agriculture Organization</td>
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<td>Education for Development Fund</td>
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<td>GoB</td>
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<td>ICI</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and communication technology</td>
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<td>ILC</td>
<td>Language and Culture Institute</td>
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<td>IMEP</td>
<td>Integrated monitoring and evaluation plan</td>
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<td>IPELC</td>
<td>Pluri-national Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures</td>
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<td>KOFIH</td>
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Capacity-building and technical assistance at the national, sub-national and community levels is one of UNICEF Bolivia’s key strategies. Building the capacity of community promoters in the Chaco region was key to ensuring adequate prevention of violence and abuse, as well as to promote positive social norms and behaviours. UNICEF Bolivia supported the provision of equipment and training of more than 350 community promoters and more than 800 social workers through a behaviour-change communication strategy and a national capacity-building strategy covering the new Code.

In collaboration with several national, multilateral and local organisations, UNICEF Bolivia supported capacity-building workshops for professionals working with the ECD quality care centre model. The aim was to generate evidence on the importance of early childhood care and education in order to scale-up national policies. In 2015, achievements included: i) a training package was developed and published on education and neuroscience; ii) four workshops were conducted; and iii) 350 professionals from 64 centres were trained. This initiative involved the participation of academia, with the aim of developing postgraduate courses on neuroscience and education in 2016.

Technical assistance and capacity-building activities were provided to the Ministry of Health (MoH) by UNICEF Bolivia to update data on maternal and neonatal mortality, which have
historically been difficult to measure in the country. Specific capacities were strengthened in the areas of monitoring and surveillance, as well as data collection and measurement. UNICEF Bolivia supported a national study and the development of a national action plan aimed at accelerating the reduction of maternal/neonatal mortality and improving monitoring and surveillance of these indicators.

UNICEF Bolivia supported the Department of Pando in the creation of six child-friendly spaces, allowing for the psychosocial recovery of more than 1,100 children affected by floods. Approximately 70 volunteers from universities were mobilised and trained to provide support to children in emergency situations.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

Evidence generation, analyses, and strategic use of data are priorities in this year’s Annual Management Plan (AMP). Advocacy activities were conducted to maintain modules related to violence, early childhood and hygiene in the 2015 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), as well as to develop the roadmap for a national survey on child labour. A renewed Parliamentarian Network for Children’s Rights in the National Assembly played a key role in UNICEF’s dialogue and advocacy work to leverage child rights issues.

Further data analyses were conducted with the Economic and Social Policy Analysis Unit (UDAPE) on social expenditures, multidimensional poverty and child mortality, and on equitable access to water and sanitation. UNICEF Bolivia supported: i) a national study on maternal and neonatal mortality; ii) baseline data on early childhood development based on Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS); and iii) four rapid assessments on child labour in mines, sugar cane harvesting, dangerous labour, and “self-employed” children. These analyses were included in the national SITAN, which will constitute an important advocacy tool for social investment and input for the next CP.

Sub-national SITANs were developed with local authorities in Chuquisaca, Potosí, and Cochabamba for the first time. They are being used in the 2016 planning process, as well as in developing plans and a legal framework for the promotion and protection of children’s rights.

At the decentralised level, UNICEF Bolivia continued its efforts to identify bottlenecks in implementing health, WASH, and education programmes to ensure equitable access to social services. A second study on menstrual hygiene management (MHM) in the Amazon was conducted to generate evidence for policy decisions and information packages. Based on a 2013 cost analysis of the functioning of social services, UNICEF Bolivia and the Ombudsperson’s Office advocated for better budget allocation for the protection of children and adolescents at the departmental and municipal levels.

Partnerships

UNICEF Bolivia continued strengthening strategic partnerships with public, civil society and private sector institutions during 2015. Emphasis was placed on interactions with the private sector, resulting in the completion of the Country Office’s integrated corporate engagement (ICE) strategy. The document outlines UNICEF’s approach to proactively and strategically engaging and influencing the business sector in order to maximise and leverage its potential to achieve results for children by linking fundraising, corporate social responsibility (CSR) and programme innovation. Important initiatives were carried out, such as: mapping of the Bolivian private sector landscape; conducting an international workshop on Child Online Protection with the participation of public institutions and private sector companies (Entel, Tigo, Viva, GSMA);
and designing a national initiative aimed at motivating companies in key industry sectors to implement CRBP. In addition, the partnerships with Tigo, Bisa Bank and ATB were strengthened and new partnerships will be formalised in 2016. The Bolivian Private Entrepreneurs Confederation (CEPB), as well as the Cochabamba and Tarija Federations of Private Entrepreneurs (FEPC and FEPT) made a commitment to UNICEF through an MoU with the objective of promoting CRBP among its partners and mobilising resources for children in emergencies. Through another MoU, the Catholic University of Bolivia included a module on CRBP in its CSR diploma and made a commitment to developing a CSR plan for the university.

The Country Office strengthened strategic collaborations with civil society, particularly at the sub-national level, complementing the support already being provided to the Government. The new UNICEF procedure for country and regional transfer of resources to civil society organisations (CSOs) was implemented in April 2015 and UNICEF currently counts on a partnership portfolio consisting of 13 agreements with national and international CSOs, such as Family Care International, World Vision Bolivia, Acción Contra el Hambre Internacional, Save the Children, Asociación Qullqi Wasi Yuyay Japina, and Fundación Educación para el Desarrollo (FAUTAPO).

External Communication and Public Advocacy

In 2015 UNICEF Bolivia focused its support on increasing child and adolescent participation in the subnational election process. The campaign, “My Voice, My Vote,” was used to make the voice of children and adolescents heard and create a space for exchanges with candidates on their proposed programmes at the municipal and departmental levels. Social media, as well as traditional communication channels, were used to deliver key messages based on the importance of integrating a child rights- and equity-based approach to policy making.

UNICEF Bolivia supported awareness-building and social mobilisation efforts at the sub-national level covering the Code that was passed last year. With support from UNICEF Bolivia, this initiative was carried out by the Parliamentarian Network for Children’s Rights and the Ombudsperson’s Office, with participation by children and adolescents.

In terms of behaviour-change communication, UNICEF Bolivia supported a qualitative community-level study in the Chaco region to better understand cultural beliefs and practices relating to child protection, early childhood development and education. The results will contribute to the development of the Chaco regional development plan aimed at improving access to and quality of basic social services, with an inter- and intra-cultural perspective.

With regard to external communications to support partnerships and fundraising, UNICEF Bolivia published and disseminated its new communications kit, “Children of Bolivia.” Additionally, UNICEF Bolivia initiated a brand barometer in order to gain better understanding of perceptions about UNICEF among different stakeholders, as well as the general public in Bolivia. In terms of social media, UNICEF Bolivia reached approximately 9,000 followers on Facebook, 1,100 on Twitter, and had approximately 2,000 viewers on YouTube.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

Supporting South-South cooperation (SSC) activities is a key partnership modality within the CP, in addition to BCO’s partnerships strategy. Important SSC initiatives were supported in 2015 and will be documented in order to strengthen the partnership strategy within the CP in a systematic and strategic way. This required, among other things, establishing a relationship with the entity in charge of SSC within the GoB, as well as formulating SSC strategies to align with
One of the key areas where SSC was used as a key strategy to achieve results was HIV/AIDS programming. Building on SSC activities initiated with Peru in 2014, the first study on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, congenital syphilis and hepatitis B among indigenous populations was completed. Based on the findings from the Amazonian Ayoreo community, it was possible to develop normative guidelines on HIV prevention, integrating an intercultural approach that will be used in the communication and social mobilisation activities at the health network level.

Another key area using SSC was improving birth registration rates. Initial steps were taken to facilitate a bilateral agreement between the authorities in charge of civil registry in Bolivia and those in Peru for an exchange on good practices in the area of birth registration.

Additionally, initial discussions were held with Union of South American Nations to share lessons learned and good practices on strengthening health systems and innovative monitoring of barriers and bottlenecks.

**Identification and Promotion of Innovation**

Together with health authorities in the Department of Cochabamba, UNICEF Bolivia supported the initiative, ‘community connection,’ which uses cell phones and radios to strengthen communications between women in rural indigenous communities and health facilities. This innovative initiative responds to the urgent need for improved access of marginalised indigenous communities to maternal/child health services.

Through an integral model to guarantee the right to live with family, UNICEF Bolivia supported the development of a model benefitting more than 8,000 children and adolescents who are currently living in centres for abandoned children. This model has three foci: i) communities with violence prevention and social mobilisation strategies; ii) services, with care protocols and training modules for technical teams, educators and caregivers working in child centres; and iii) re-integration of children and adolescents with their families, after integral bottleneck analyses. This initiative involves children’s judges, the Ombudsperson’s Office, and the Departmental social services of Cochabamba to facilitate the reintegration process of these children.

UNICEF Bolivia also supported an intercultural and pluri-lingual ECD initiative based on community bilingual learning nests (grandparents teach children under three years of age their native languages and traditions). This innovative initiative responds to the needs of indigenous populations, as well as to GoB’s priority to revitalise the country’s native languages. Furthermore, UNICEF Bolivia supported nine institutes of language and culture (ILC) by developing curriculum guidelines for teaching languages, as well as materials for primary caregivers. This new educational model strengthened families’ capacity to implement educational activities and promote a favourable environment for children’s development.

Implementation of the “simulations for equity in education” (SEE) approach in five municipalities of Chaco region was in its final stages by end-2015. Based on quantitative and qualitative data, simulations were conducted to identify the best options for improving education indicators (enrolment, repetition, and success rates). The municipalities used these results to identify their priorities for their 2016 education strategic plan.
**Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages**

Communication for development (C4D) can be used successfully to promote cross-sectoral linkages, especially between WASH, health and nutrition. In 2015 UNICEF Bolivia supported several line ministries in strengthening information flows, exchanges and joint actions to improve the quality of services for water, hygiene promotion and sanitation.

A good example of this work is the development and sharing of experiences in promoting MHM within the education system. Synergies were created among the ministries of Health, Water and Environment, Education, and Justice, as well as with the Federation of Municipal Associations. Through this collaboration, a basic information package on MHM was developed and an accountability framework was established.

In child protection, UNICEF Bolivia supported the Ministry of Justice to establish a specialised system for the care of children and adolescents in conflict with the law, in accordance with the Code. This system articulates the collaboration between the Ministry of Justice, the Court for Children and Adolescents, social services, police, the National Public Defender Service and defenders of children and adolescents. Collaboration took place through juvenile justice working groups in all nine Departments, with a special focus on capacity-building in the Departments of Santa Cruz, Oruro, Potosí, Cochabamba, Chuquisaca and La Paz.

At the sub-national level and through the support of UNICEF’s zone office in Sucre, cross-sectoral linkages were created between different social sectors under the leadership of the Governor’s Office in Chuquisaca. This collaboration yielded the following accomplishments: i) finalisation of the first ever sub-national SITAN; ii) passing of the first Departmental law to promote and protect children’s rights; and iii) initiation of a consultative process involving children and adolescents for the development of a Departmental plan to further children’s rights as per the Child and Adolescent Code.

**Service Delivery**

In 2015 UNICEF Bolivia provided technical assistance to strengthen quality service delivery aimed at children, adolescents and women, with a focus on equity. This support included: training, social mobilisation, policy and guideline development and the scaling-up of demonstration models to improve key indicators in education, child protection, health, HIV/AIDS and nutrition.

*Child protection:* Considerable efforts were made to bridge the gap in birth registration through collaboration with different sectors. The partnership with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) and the private sector, through the telecommunications company TIGO, resulted in establishing 25 civil registry offices in hospitals, and implementing a civil registry strategy at the municipal level to reach the target of zero undocumented persons by the end of 2015.

*Education:* UNICEF Bolivia supported the development and expansion of the demonstration model of bilingual learning nests to promote culturally appropriate care and development of young children under six years. This year the initiative was expanded to include an additional 15 municipalities, reaching 41 bilingual learning nests involving children, family members and educators alike.

*Child and maternal health:* UNICEF Bolivia supported the expansion of continuous quality improvement cycles (CQIC) to 96 health facilities. With UNICEF Bolivia’s support, the MoH adopted CQIC as a national standard for all health facilities at the primary, secondary and
tertiary health care levels. Additionally, tools with guidelines to ensure that cost-effective maternal and child health interventions have a better reach were developed, including guidelines for family visits and a pregnant women’s census. Furthermore, UNICEF Bolivia supported the “Backpack for Life” initiative that allows municipalities to provide obstetric and neonatal emergency care.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

The national Constitution and the Code, both highly human rights-oriented, are critical to UNICEF Bolivia’s advocacy and policy-leveraging work to guarantee human development in Bolivia and comply with international human rights standards.

With the Ministry of Justice, the Parliamentarian Network for Children’s Rights organised training activities to inform and build capacities on the Code. This activity allowed members of the national and local assemblies to become familiar with child-related laws and regulations, as well as the international conventions (Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention to End All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)).

UNICEF Bolivia disseminated information to families and communities on the different forms of violence, their potential impact and effects and the urgent need to report them. UNICEF Bolivia supported institutional capacity-building and fostered strategies to ensure birth registration, eradicate child labour for children under 14 years of age and provide adolescents in conflict with the law with access to alternative measures.

In alliance with the Guarani Nation, UNICEF Bolivia supported C4D research to collect information on family and community child-rearing practices. The aim was to design evidence-based strategies targeting behaviour change to encourage a culture of good treatment, as well as to document lessons learned for future initiatives.

UNICEF Bolivia collaborated with five UN agencies within the framework of the interagency programme on disabilities. Due in part to UNICEF’s strong advocacy work, the GoB adopted the new approach of the “International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health”, and the Ministry of Education implemented a new registration system for children and adolescents with disabilities within the education system. Furthermore, an institutional capacity assessment was initiated in 2015 of the institution in charge of driving disabilities policy, the National Committee for Persons with Disabilities (CONALPEDI).

Moreover, in order to achieve human rights-based approach (HRBA) benchmarks, UNICEF Bolivia strengthened important alliances with academia and training institutes to generate data and evidence, as well as to build capacity.

**Gender Mainstreaming and Equality**

One national and three sub-national SITANs were finalised, including information on data availability, gender disaggregation and gender-driven bottlenecks. This information will allow the CP to design interventions for the next Country Programme Document (CPD).

Examples on how the CP supports implementation of the gender action plan (GAP) priorities include:

*Maternal/Child Health*: UNICEF Bolivia supported cost-effective maternal/child health
interventions addressing delivery, postpartum, and new-born care that are critical for the baby and the mother, particularly adolescent mothers. The interventions encouraged co-responsibility of both parents and community leaders (women and men) in promoting good health practices. UNICEF Bolivia also supported HIV and unwanted pregnancy prevention interventions among adolescents in schools, as well as generating evidence on HIV in indigenous communities.

**WASH:** To increase dignity and improve the rights of girls and adolescents, the MHM in Schools initiative was expanded to other Departments in Bolivia. MHM aims to increase girls’ access to water and safe sanitary conditions, as well as increase knowledge, support and resources to manage menstruation.

**Child Protection:** In 2015 UNICEF Bolivia continued to promote the opening of new prevention, care and psycho-recovery services for victims of sexual violence at specialised centres (CEPAT), providing services for adolescents based on victims’ recovery and development of resiliency skills that reduce the possibility of future abuse.

**Emergencies:** Emergency responses also required differentiated attention to protect girls, adolescent girls and pregnant women during emergencies.

**Social Inclusion:** The initiative for the economic empowerment of indigenous women grew with the opening of more “community banks”. In addition to providing economic resources and ensuring child rights to overcome poverty, the initiative recognised women leaders, some of whom are currently members of their municipal councils.

**Environmental Sustainability**

In 2015 UNICEF Bolivia continued to support the GoB within the legal framework on the Rights of Mother Earth and the initiative, “Educating to Live Well with Mother Earth.” Following up on last year’s work with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the consultation process with children and adolescents from all the nine Departments came to an end. This process resulted in the development of “Guidelines for the National Strategy on Environmental Education in Favour of a Life in Harmony with Mother Earth.” These guidelines, which are aimed at integrating environmental education into the education system at all levels, are a critical part of the Environmental Programme, “My Mother Earth, My Future,” spearheaded by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MMAyA).

The guidelines cover three main lines of action: i) establishment of the national committee; ii) knowledge management and capacity-building on environmental issues, including climate change; and iii) guidelines for a communication strategy. Support from UNICEF Bolivia will continue in the coming year and will include continued advocacy efforts to include adolescents, as agents of change, in discussions on climate change in the country.

Additionally, UNICEF Bolivia provided support to the Department of Cochabamba for the development of a demonstration model to improve MHM in 13 rural schools through life skills education. This initiative, which included the promotion of good hygiene practices, reached more than 1,200 children and adolescents, 10 teachers, and 600 families. Furthermore, the initiative contributed to developing a comprehensive package of materials that included affordable and recyclable sanitary napkins that are culturally appropriate and environmentally friendly.
**Effective Leadership**

UNICEF Bolivia’s Country Management Team (CMT) continued to review key management indicators and issues on a monthly basis to improve management performance, incorporating recommendations from the CMT retreat held in December 2014 and the results of the global staff survey (GSS). Priorities identified in the AMP this year were to: i) strengthen the collection, analysis and strategic use of information based on equity; ii) simplify internal business processes to enable staff to focus on external issues and strategic alliance building; iii) strengthen morale, work-life balance and wellbeing of staff; iv) continue support to staff affected by the downsizing of the office and transition to the Global Shared Service Centre (GSSC).

The Country Office conducted two important exercises in 2015: i) the risk control self-assessment (RCSA), followed by an action plan; and ii) the mid-term management review (MTMR). The RCSA action plan included 12 risks (one high risk, eight medium risks and three low risks), which are reviewed on a regular basis by the CMT to strengthen risk assessment and management. The MTMR permitted the review of several important management issues such as: key business processes, internal monitoring system, funding situation, partnerships and resource mobilisation and review of the remaining internal audit recommendations. All remaining open audit recommendations were closed, and corrective actions were taken.

UNICEF’s resource mobilisation was severely impacted by the rapidly changing context in Bolivia, affecting the CP and the office structure. Furthermore, the transition to the GSSC has implied a restructuring of operational support in the office. These issues were reflected in the GSS results, and as such, the Country Office decided to seek external support for developing an action plan. After a consultative process, the action plan focused on three key issues: efficiency and effectiveness, leadership and work-life balance.

**Financial Resources Management**

Throughout 2015 UNICEF Bolivia generated monthly key indicator reports, based on the SAP system, for review at CMT meetings. This allowed for regular monitoring and taking appropriate action with regard to key bottlenecks in the areas of contributions management, liquidation of cash assistance to partners, budget control and financial procedures. Monthly programme management team (PMT) and programme implementation meetings (PIM), were conducted, allowing for the review, discussion, coordination and streamlining of accountability, in relation to standard business processes.

The performance of UNICEF’s operations and programme management was strong and cooperative, and permitted greater accuracy in tracking financial records, mitigating risks and avoiding loss of resources. As of December, the Office reached an overall financial utilisation rate of 89.5 per cent (Regular Resources: 99 per cent; Other Resources: 90 per cent; Other Resources, Emergency: 69 per cent; Support Budget: 100 per cent). BCO was able to keep outstanding DCTs under thresholds (> 9 months at 4 per cent and >6 months at 3.8 per cent); ensure implementation of the HACT action plan at 85 per cent; and ensure quality assurance and timely submission (100 per cent) of the donor reports.

UNICEF Bolivia ensured continuous monitoring of the segregation of duties through a quarterly review of role assignments in SAP, as well as timely completion and reporting of bank reconciliation. Additionally, the Office remained within green compliance range. In November 2015 the Country Office successfully transitioned into the GSSC.

The remaining open audit recommendations from the 2013 exercise were closed and corrective
actions were undertaken. An RCSA and MTMR were conducted, in which 12 risks were identified (one high, eight medium and three low). An action plan was developed to mitigate these identified risks, which includes periodic follow-up actions.

**Fund-raising and Donor Relations**

Fundraising remains a challenge due to Bolivia's graduation to a MIC and the consequent changing landscape of international cooperation and bilateral relations. Despite this, UNICEF Bolivia continues to have a strong relationship with the Delegation of the European Union (DUE), and Swedish Cooperation, which agreed to extend its funding agreement until the end of 2016, with additional thematic funds to support the CP. The collaboration with Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH) comes to an end this year; however, discussions to renew the partnership were underway. Additionally, the GoB contributes with flexible funds to support the implementation of the CP. UNICEF Bolivia also participated in four joint programmes with sister agencies in the areas of nutrition, WASH, inclusive education and resilience. It also hosted donor field visits and strengthened relationships with several UNICEF National Committees, including those from Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.S.

The Country Office partnerships and resource mobilisation strategy suggested ways to diversify its donor base by strengthening ties to both existing and new partnerships. Considering the continuous economic growth and the importance of the private sector, UNICEF developed a strategy for ICE for 2015-2017, whose objectives are to combine fundraising with strategic engagement in CSR and innovation.

This year, UNICEF Bolivia strengthened its understanding of the national private sector, as well as its relationships with approximately 30 public and private companies, institutions and umbrella organisations. The partnerships with Telecel/Tigo, Bisa Bank and ATB were renewed and new alliances with Alianza Seguros, Banco Económico, Banco Mercantil and Entel were underway at year’s end.

To increase the effectiveness of donor relations, a new proposal model was developed and implemented, which was inspired by the Head-Heart-Hands model and the Impact-Issue-Action storytelling architecture. Furthermore, an internal committee led by the Representative was established to follow up on the implementation of the two aforementioned strategies.

**Evaluation**

In line with Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO) recommendations, emphasis was placed on evaluations this year, in order to assess policy efficiency and identify good practices; two evaluations were scheduled.

The first evaluated child-friendly schools in 18 municipalities, for which a management response is pending. The company originally hired to conduct the evaluation unilaterally changed its team of experts without informing UNICEF in due time, resulting in cancellation of the contract with this vendor. This decision was taken after a quality assurance analysis revealed a high risk of a poor quality evaluation due to the change. The Country Office decided to go with the second pre-selected company for this evaluation and used the already validated methodology developed by the first company, to minimise delays. The lesson learned from this experience is to prioritise quality assurance over original deadlines. This evaluation will be concluded by the end of the year and the management response will be prepared in early 2016.

A second evaluation of the Defensorias de la Niñez was also planned in the 2015 integrated
monitoring and evaluation plan (IMEP). However, after analysis and recommendations from LACRO, it was decided that a capacity analysis of the Defensorias would be more appropriate, and consequently will be included in the 2016 IMEP. The development of a baseline for a subsequent evaluation of the Defensorias will be also included in next year’s analysis.

As part of preparations for evaluations to be carried out in 2016, discussions already began with UDAPE to suggest the need for an evaluation of a national programme for children and/or an evaluation of emergency preparedness and response. A second evaluation will also be conducted, but the issue was still to be identified at the time of this writing.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

A major challenge in 2015 was improving the efficient and effective use of resources, based on the optimisation of quality results, and ensuring high quality standards on the timely delivery of products. The Operations section programmed cash flow projections and ensured sufficient funds, in coordination with business partners. Monitoring reports and early alerts were broadcast to ensure an efficient management of funds.

As part of the UN “Greening the Blue” initiative, UNICEF Bolivia identified areas contributing to the pollution of and negative impact on the environment, as well as estimating the quantitative and qualitative cost of assessing its environmental performance. Based on the results of this analysis, the Country Office took steps to mitigate and improve all compromised areas.

To effectively control the institutional budget, monthly reporting and close monitoring was used to help identify the level of performance and opportune reallocate funds. Additionally, a thorough review of utilities costs and other operating current expenditures was conducted, which resulted in: early warning of increments and cost reductions, corrective measures to reduce losses and costs and awareness-building among staff.

Good savings practices used in 2015 that are worth mentioning include: i) sharing office space with UNAIDS, which saved four per cent in rental costs and resulted in improved coordination with this UN agency on issues affecting children and establishing an online file to archive documents, which generated a savings of 38 per cent in paper costs.

Due to improved wireless infrastructure, improved Internet access, and adequate information and communication technology (ICT) equipment in the Bolivia Country Office, the use of video conferencing was promoted for trainings, interviews and inter-office meetings (LACRO, Headquarters, and other UNICEF offices). The use of VoIP and Skype for Business created savings of 34 per cent, compared to prior billing.

**Supply Management**

The Country Office strategic approach to supply management focused on strengthening capacities and availability of local commodities. UNICEF procured a total of US$1,650,655, representing 17 per cent of total budget implementation (US$ 9,558,585), with only a 1 per cent reduction compared to last year. Due to wide availability of commodities in Bolivia, almost all contract and service procurement (98 per cent) was local; only 2 per cent was international. Programme supplies represented 7 per cent and institutional contracts 10 per cent of the Office budget. The use of contracted services increased by 57 per cent and provision of supplies decreased by 45 per cent, which are indicative of the transition from service delivery to technical assistance.
The Bolivia Country Office is in charge of the delivery of supplies to counterparts and manages a warehouse, especially for supply stockpiling, with an outsourced logistics staff. Considering the need for preparedness for an eventual emergency response as a consequence of “El Niño,” the Office ensured in advance a critical emergency stock, representing 68 per cent of supplies in the warehouse. The remaining 32 per cent are regular supplies distributed to counterparts on a schedule. There is room for improving the delivery mechanisms to reach counterparts; the standard operating procedure will soon be reviewed.

Institutional contracts underwent competitive processes and followed regulations. Additionally, the Country Office provided follow-up support to business programme partners in monitoring and distributing supplies, allowing more efficient control of financial resources. UNICEF Bolivia established long-term agreements for supplies and services that generated time and cost savings, especially during emergencies (such as transport services, workshops services, water and sanitation supplies).

Security for Staff and Premises

There was close coordination and communication between UNICEF Bolivia and the local United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS) on staff security issues. All recommendations made by UNDSS and the 2014 audit were implemented in order to rectify weaknesses. Specific security measures were assessed, tested and implemented, not only in the La Paz office, but also in the Cochabamba and Sucre zone offices. Security trainings and briefings for staff were implemented in accordance with minimum operating security standards (MOSS) and UNDSS recommendations.

For emergency communications, the Office acquired from the GoB, at no cost, radio transmitters with HF and UHF frequencies that are being shared with all UN agencies. Furthermore, UNICEF is leading and supporting other UN agencies with advice on radio technology.

To improve security and control systems, UNICEF updated: access control and fire alarm systems in the La Paz office, emergency lighting and manual fire alarm in the Sucre zone office and emergency generators in the two zone offices.

To be fully MOSS-compliant, emergency evacuation systems were tested on all Country Office premises, and based on these results operational procedures were prepared and adjustments made. The contingency phone call plan was put into effect; each time there was a potential risk the plan was activated successfully. Staff members received timely advice and were informed on progress in a timely manner.

Essential staff were given radio equipment, and the HF radio system was put in place for the three offices. Strict security measures were taken to ensure staff’s security during duty travel, including equipping them with a satellite phone in remote areas where there is little or no access.
to networks. UNICEF Bolivia established a system whereby staff are required to report their locations and means of transport to UNDSS.

**Human Resources**

The Office went through various organisational changes since the start of the CP, triggered by the GSSC financial constraints stemming from Bolivia’s transition to a MIC. Mitigation strategies for Operations staff were implemented with three lateral reassignments, two staff sharing one job, and opportunities to apply to new vacant positions.

In response to the Office’s 2014 GSS results, two elements were considered: development of the outplacement and change management strategy, led by an external company providing support to staff affected by the post reduction; and development of a concerted strategy to respond to the three lowest-rated areas of the survey: efficiency and effectiveness, leadership; and work-life balance. A task force developed an action plan that was monitored regularly by the CMT. The task force consisted of staff from different levels/sections, local staff association, stress counsellor and an external consultant.

The 2014 rate for completion of personnel evaluation reports (PER) was 98 per cent by April 2015 and 66 per cent by October 2015. Regular reminders and close monitoring permitted all staff to comply with the PAS cycle. However, there is room for improving the SMART approach and timeliness of staff/supervisor discussions.

UNICEF Bolivia played an active role in UN Cares inter-agency committee, providing leadership in the development and implementation of the action plan, and representing UN Cares Bolivia at the international annual meeting.

The Office achieved 88 per cent completion of its local training plan through training in programming, human resources, security, information technology and English language. It was determined that staff need to take charge of their own career development, with greater commitment from the Office for supporting these activities. The Country Office released 14 staff members for emergency missions and for external/local stretch assignments, providing staff with opportunities to improve knowledge and be immersed in different office and cultural environments.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

In 2015 significant advances were made in the ICT infrastructure, such as the installation of the new standard wireless connectivity (universal WiFi) in the La Paz building, allowing safe and reliable access from different places. The acquisition of a new server permitted expansion and optimisation of archives, as well as preventing loss of data. The “data recovery plan” produced periodic backups of all information on the server, thus averting any loss of data. There is room for improving the on-line filing of archives to expedite access, based on knowledge management criteria.

ICT also supported preparation activities for the Country Office’s transition to GSSC by: acquiring faster Internet link services, ensuring a better backup (secondary) Internet link and facilitating trainings for all staff. A thorough review was conducted to assign new roles in VISION, according to the new GSSC module. Recommendations and alerts were issued opportunely when a conflict of roles was registered. UNICEF Bolivia transitioned into electronic banking and coordinated with the bank specialist to ensure the correct platform was in place for
this transition.

Multifunctional equipment was updated on each floor, contributing to improved printing, copying and scanning performance in the office. As part of the work-life balance approach, 13 personal computers were updated to laptops to facilitate remote access, and a set of scanners were acquired to promote electronic management of documents and a paperless culture. Efforts were made to install radio equipment to facilitate connection where other means of communication were limited.

**Programme Components from Results Assessment Module**

**OUTCOME 1** High impact interventions in maternal/child health and HIV/AIDS are being equitably used by children, adolescents and mothers from the most disadvantaged communities in the intervention area

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

During 2015, the UNICEF Bolivia Country Office, through the Child Survival and Development (CSD) Programme section, and its Health and HIV/AIDS programme, continued implementing the equity approach, using the UNICEF theory of change to better define and carry out programmes, while at the same time supporting the equitable use of high-impact interventions in maternal/child health and HIV/AIDS in children, adolescents, and mothers.

Overall progress was made despite the elections and subsequent changes of national and subnational authorities during the first semester. The lack of harmonisation between UNICEF’s and national and sub-national planning processes had an impact on implementation start dates in the beginning of the year. Implementation of alternative ways of working to ensure timely actions for achieving equitable results from children allowed timely implementation.

The health system faces major challenges in scaling-up interventions to reduce maternal, newborn, and child mortality. To increase the coverage and quality of effective interventions, especially in hard-to-reach areas and population groups, cross sectoral efforts are needed to strengthen systems in areas such as evidence-based planning, real-time monitoring and supply chain management.

UNICEF Bolivia supported the implementation of the health and HIV/AIDS sector plans at the sub-national level, to reduce equity gaps. During 2015, support to the Departments of Cochabamba and Potosí Departments was aimed at improving institutional delivery coverage, postnatal control and pneumococcal vaccination, as well as increasing the number of infants born to HIV-positive mothers that received their first viral load testing within two months of being born. Effective advocacy and technical assistance provided to counterparts based on bottleneck analysis, implemented since 2014, are resulting in the implementation of proven interventions for reducing maternal, neonatal and child mortality at the national level in priority intervention areas. UNICEF expects to launch the new health bottleneck analysis tool promoted by HQ – EQUIST – to replace the marginal budgeting for bottlenecks (MBB) tool.

Bottleneck analysis in Cochabamba Department is taking place, as a first phase, until the new tool is available. In Potosí Department, strategies proposed as an outcome from the modelling with the MBB tool in 2014 were integrated into 2015 Departmental health and HIV/AIDS plans. UNICEF Bolivia adopted the first two decades of a child’s life for addressing HIV/AIDS: in the first decade of life, the focus is on reducing the gaps in HIV testing and treatment through antenatal and delivery services for pregnant women, provision of ART to all HIV-infected
pregnant and breastfeeding women and provision of infant testing and paediatric HIV treatment and care. For the second decade UNICEF Bolivia addresses HIV testing and counselling, PMTCT, and stigma reduction among adolescents, including discrimination against adolescent males who have sex with males. Guidance, tools and technical support are provided for areas such as integrating HIV services into maternal health services, undertaken in a manner that is sensitive to the specific needs of adolescent girls and boys. As part of South-South Cooperation, BCO technically and financially supported a study between Bolivia and Peru, to determine the "sero-prevalence of Hepatitis B, Syphilis, and HIV/AIDS in reproductive age women and their partners among the Ayoreo People of Santa Cruz." Recommendations from the study were shared with stakeholders.

Partnerships constitute a key strategy for the Child Survival and Development Programme (CSD). Together with partners, BCO committed to support the strengthening of national plans for maternal, new-born and child health, taking into account global initiatives such as A Promise Renewed, and considering national priorities and vision, such as the Patriotic Agenda 2025, as well as local health sector plans. Together with other relevant health stakeholders and UN agencies, UNICEF supported the MoH and sub-national health authorities to reduce maternal mortality rates through a study to better define programmes and targets. UNICEF Bolivia continues to be engaged in other partnerships and initiatives, such as the Gavi Alliance. The Country Office supports South-South and triangular cooperation to share lessons learned and good practices on health systems strengthening and innovative monitoring of barriers and bottlenecks.

Gender-inequitable norms and limitations are key issues to address in relation to adolescent girls, whose pregnancies contribute significantly to high maternal and neonatal death rates. UNICEF regularly engages in capacity development and evidence generation, policy dialogue, and advocacy on these issues. For example, it is building the capacity of local partners to strengthen the fulfilment of human rights and gender equality in the context of pneumonia and diarrhoea treatment, including capacity-building of women as community leaders and front-line health workers, and by supporting services, such as community links for improving response to obstetric emergencies. Collection and use of disaggregated data at all levels of the health system is still a challenge, and UNICEF advocates for their integration into the monitoring and evaluation system. Gender and intercultural approaches are being reinforced in collaboration with universities covering health topics, especially as part of capacity-building activities delivered jointly by UNICEF, academic partners and sub-national authorities from the selected intervention areas. UNICEF Bolivia continued to strengthen partnerships with national and sub-national authorities, KOFIH, the Spanish National Committee, USFUND, Universidad San Simon, World Vision International and Family Care International.

**OUTPUT 1** Boys, Girls, adolescents, mothers, fathers, families and communities in the intervention area are competent in maternal/child health, and HIV prevention.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF Bolivia promoted actions to develop boys', girls', mothers' and fathers' competencies on maternal and child health at the community level, as well as HIV/AIDS prevention, by strengthening demand from organised communities in Potosi and Cochabamba. It supported health networks for mobilising mothers and children to access timely health services through communication actions. Female community leaders identified through a mapping of community social organisations in Potosi and Cochabamba were trained in health self-care, including family and new-born care and care for pregnant. Training materials on health self-care, with a gender and inter-cultural approach, were developed and 24 indigenous female leaders from 60
communities trained more than 400 indigenous women. Maternal and neonatal mortality community surveillance was strengthened with participation from midwives and female community leaders, contributing to determining the dimensions and prevailing factors, as well as defining plans of action in the selected intervention areas to improve mortality indicators.

UNICEF Bolivia made efforts to involve and mobilise female leaders from relevant social organisations. Thirty Departmental female leaders from the indigenous national organisation Bartolina Sisa reinforced their knowledge on HIV/AIDS prevention, with an emphasis on prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT). Some 175 Bartolina Sisa leaders disseminated information and mobilised women to increase pregnant women's demand for HIV rapid tests at health facilities. Because of the direct links between HIV infection and violence against women and girls, actions are being taken with children and adolescents, advocating strongly on this issue. UNICEF is encouraging the engagement of men and boys in the promotion of gender equality in the context of HIV and AIDS, and engaging schools to help transform social norms that foster discrimination and inequality on the basis of gender and sexuality. To date, 18,000 students from 25 schools in Potosi received information regarding safe pregnancy, violence and HIV prevention. Advocacy and awareness-building activities were conducted to ensure demand aspects are included in Departmental action plans. As such, 30 communities from Northern Potosi developed action plans focused on maternal and child health care, which were negotiated with Departmental authorities. Challenges, such as political changes and delays in appointing new authorities, impacted the start of activities in 2015. Strategic partnerships with social organisations and NGOs, such as World Vision and Family Care International, helped accelerate actions in the intervention areas, and ensure that objectives are being achieved as planned. The percentage of families that adopted new-born essential care in prioritised communities will be available by the end of the year.

**OUTPUT 2** Health networks and select services are strengthened and provide high impact interventions through quality and culturally appropriate health and HIV services.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF Bolivia strengthened health services from priority areas to provide high-impact health and HIV/AIDS interventions. It supported a maternal mortality study and provided technical assistance at national and Departmental levels to reorient the national maternal and neonatal health policy. The continuous quality improvement cycle (CQIC), which monitors 13 quality standards, was expanded to 96 health facilities, and the MoH made the CQIC a national standard for all health facilities at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

To expand coverage of health services, UNICEF developed tools, with guiding principles, to ensure cost-effective maternal and child health interventions, including guidelines for a census of pregnant women and for family visits on maternal and neonatal health. Adopting an intercultural approach, 57 health workers from indigenous communities were trained, improving access to health services by indigenous population groups. The Indigenous Health Network providing care for indigenous populations, was created and achieved legal status.

UNICEF faced continuous supply management constraints, constituting a major challenge to making progress in health results. These included lengthy and complicated operations processes, causing critical shortages of lifesaving commodities, as well insufficient staff at critical times for ensuring actions. Ten health centres assisting indigenous communities from Cochabamba were furnished with basic equipment.
Priority was given to introducing innovations. One example was development of a demonstration model for strategic scale-up of availability of rapid test diagnosis at Departmental health facilities. Decentralisation of HIV/AIDS surveillance and control and PMTCT at sub-national levels was strengthened, allowing health networks to implement the 2.0 HIV/AIDS Strategy. By mid-2015, 320 health workers from Potosí, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz health networks were trained on PMTCT and congenital syphilis. Some 125 paediatricians from Santa Cruz and Potosí were trained on paediatric HIV treatment and quality standards of care.

UNICEF Bolivia supported the development of guidelines for HIV/AIDS prevention and care with an intercultural approach. Intercultural, family and community health municipal directors from 40 municipalities and 11 health networks from Potosí Department identified achievements and bottlenecks, as well as priority actions, for PMTCT implementation. UNICEF Bolivia’s actions facilitated pregnant women’s access to HIV prevention and care, as evidenced by an increase in the number of health facilities offering HIV rapid test and providing ART. Strategic partnerships with civil society groups and NGOs such as World Vision and Family Care International, contributed to implementation of actions, and ensuring that planned objectives are being achieved.

**OUTPUT 3** Subnational authorities allocate budgets for cost-effective interventions aimed at impacting bottlenecks present in maternal/child health, and HIV/AIDS care

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The Country Office continues to apply the “monitoring results for equity system” (MoRES) approach to accelerate the achievement of equitable health results for children, including the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and to improve paediatric HIV care and treatment. Using bottlenecks analysis on supply and demand of services, key strategies for achieving results were defined by the STI/HIV/AIDS Programme, and its nine Departmental programmes. Thirty-six municipalities and their 10 health networks from Potosí Department integrated into their 2015 annual work plans strategic actions for implementing tracer interventions proposed by the MBB model developed in 2014 with UNICEF technical support.

To support community care of pregnant women and new-borns, strategic partnerships were established with the Cochabamba Tropics Indigenous People Coordinating Organisation (CPITCO), four indigenous councils from Cochabamba Tropics, as well as with agricultural syndicates of men and women of Northern Potosí. Agreements with eight municipal governments in Cochabamba and Potosí were signed to support investment from local authorities in maternal and child health. For ensuring impact on effective new-born care, the MoH with technical assistance from UNICEF and funding from the Inter-American Development Bank, introduced the kangaroo mother care initiative, as a cost-effective and innovative intervention for reducing maternal and neonatal mortality. The Maternal and Neonatal Mortality Observatory was being established to better define the maternal and child health situation in Bolivia. The Community Links initiative, aimed at bringing health services to indigenous communities from Cochabamba Tropics is ongoing; the introduction of ICT will facilitate communication between pregnant women and their families and health facilities for responding to obstetric and/or neonatal emergencies.

Support was also provided for a review of national policies, strategies and related laws to ensure an enabling environment. Two Departments planned and monitored interventions based on bottleneck analysis, and have revised, adopted and are implementing a policy for home/family visits.
Advocacy efforts by UNICEF Bolivia persuaded health and education authorities to implement HIV prevention activities in schools. Synthesising, translating and disseminating the latest scientific and programmatic evidence and innovations to various audiences through diverse platforms (e.g., webinars, social media, UNICEF website, regional lessons learned compendium) and the inclusion of South-South exchanges, are all part of UNICEF Bolivia’s strategies for improving equitable results on maternal and child health and HIV/AIDS issues. Challenges such as political change delayed the start of some activities. Strategic partnerships with indigenous communities, social organisations and NGOs contributed to implementing actions and to ensuring that objectives are being achieved as planned.

OUTCOME 2  Improved and equitable use of safe drinking water, and hygiene practices by populations from the intervention area.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2015 the UNICEF Bolivia Country Office, through its CSD and WASH programmes, continued implementing an equity approach, adapting and implementing UNICEF’s theory of change to improve the defining and carrying out of programmes, while at the same time supporting national and sub-national authorities to ensure the equitable use of safe drinking water and hygiene practices by the Bolivian population. Bolivia made significant progress in increased water and sanitation access for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, sanitation indicators still lag behind. Significant rural-urban areas inequities are still evident in Bolivia. Gaps are significant in rural areas, where only 72 per cent of the population is using improved sources of water, and 32 per cent are using improved sanitation systems.

UNICEF’s WASH interventions contributed to reducing maternal, neonatal and infant mortality, as well as preventing malnutrition. Women and girls are particularly benefiting, while being supported by UNICEF to exercise their right to access water, sanitation and hygiene.

Overall progress was made despite factor such as the elections and subsequent changes to staffing at the national and sub-national authorities and the lack of harmonisation between UNICEF, national, and subnational planning processes during the first semester. Alternative ways of working allowed the timely execution of actions, including establishment of new partnerships with civil society stakeholders and NGOs at the national and local levels. UNICEF Bolivia supports the WASH sector plan to reduce equity gaps by increasing access to improved water sources, and using improved sanitation systems in rural areas. Through the implementation of the WASH-BAT tool at the national level three important results were achieved: i) sanitation planning processes in peri-urban and rural areas were strengthened; strategies for tackling bottlenecks in supply, demand and context were identified; and iii) concrete WASH actions for improving sanitation in Bolivia were agreed upon.

UNICEF continued to contribute to strengthening national and sub-national capacities aimed at improving WASH services by increasing the number of inhabitants with WASH services through national programmes, and pilot experiences for improving MHM in schools. UNICEF also contributed to increasing the number of families free of open defecation through partnerships with local NGOs, as well as implementation of SANTOLIC (an adaptation of the community-led total sanitation approach) and MHM demonstration projects. In conjunction with the Ministry of Environment and Water, UNICEF is co-leading the WASH in Emergencies sector, whose aim it is to provide immediate responses to humanitarian situations, such as the floods that affected Pando at the beginning of the year; an example of UNICEF fulfilling its obligation to the CCC.

In partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Water and the European Union, UNICEF helped implement the rural sector-wide approach (R-SWAp) for areas with less than 2,000
inhabitants in the Departments of Beni, Chuquisaca, Potosí, Cochabamba and Pando. The Bolivia Country Office continued to strengthen partnerships with the EU, as well as the Spanish, French and UK National Committees, UN agencies, local and international NGOs (such as Sumaj Wasi, Save the Children and Water for People) and academia through Nur University. The Office also participated in other national and global forums, such as, the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation.

OUTPUT 1 Rural populations apply hygiene practices and are active in WASH community services management.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Bolivia continued to implement its hygiene promotion strategy using cross-sectoral, equity-based, intercultural approaches. UNICEF’s theory of change encourages gathering evidence through studies and demonstration experiences to better advocate and position innovative subjects. The engagement of communities was critical to ensuring sustainable solutions to water delivery and sanitation systems.

The Country Office supports MHM as a “key hygiene practice” to strengthen hygiene promotion and incorporated this line of action into existing policies and established cross-sectoral allies. A new study on challenges faced by girls during menstruation at school was underway in two municipalities of Beni in 2015. As an additional achievement, students in the nursing programme at Beni’s Autonomous University were trained in qualitative research with a child’s rights focus on hygiene promotion, including MHM. Thirteen educational units from Cochabamba participated in a pilot exercise that examined MHM compatibility with the key hygiene practices under the “education based on life skills” methodology. Over 1,200 children/adolescents, more than 100 teachers and 600 families had hygiene practices strengthened, including in relation to MHM.

The Country Office hygiene strategy gained greater visibility, as a result of which the ministries of Education and of Water and Environment officially presented a set of tools to train teachers in the three key hygiene practices, as well as other WASH issues. The community approach to total sanitation continued to be a priority, and was adapted to the Bolivian context as SANTOLIC, of which a demonstration model is being implemented in Chaco-Chuquisaqueño, and will be scaled-up to other Departments and to the national level.

At the national level, a new standard was officially launched by the Ministry of Water and Environment (the “Community Development Guide”). After almost three years of advocacy work and technical assistance, Bolivia began measuring hygiene knowledge and practices at the municipal level through a Community Nutrition Surveillance System, covering families with children under two years of age; a breakthrough because until now these indicators were not measured. The indicators were developed with the Ministry of Health in 2013, validated in 2014, and eventually collected in 62 municipalities in five Departments.

http://snis.minsalud.gob.bo/snis/

Challenges in 2015 included the long processes the Government requires to adopt and advance programmes and other initiatives, in contrast to UNICEF’s deadlines. Partnerships with national counterparts, such as the National Service for Basic Sanitation Services Sustainability and NGOS, were essential for keeping implementation on-track.

OUTPUT 2 National and subnational capacities are strengthened to provide WASH services in communities and schools from rural areas.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Bolivia supported national and sub-national governments to implement national strategies aimed at improving sanitation and eliminating open defecation. It continued to apply the MoRES approach to accelerate the achievement of equitable health results for children. Aimed at increasing WASH sector resources and achieving more sustainable and equitable outcomes, UNICEF implemented the WASH-BAT, facilitating dialogue with relevant stakeholders about removing major barriers to sector development. A practical strategic proposal for improving sanitation in rural and peri-urban areas was the product of a national workshop held in May 2015.

UNICEF Bolivia implemented several demonstration models, including: a community approach to total sanitation in partnership with Sumaj Huasi and Water for People in the Chaco-Chuquisaqueño and MHM was introduced in schools in Beni and Cochabamba, in partnership with Water for People and Save the Children, which will likely be scaled-up to other Departments. The strengthening of institutional capacity at all levels was a priority for the WASH Programme in 2015, including WASH traditional spaces and other key platforms, such as health facilities and schools. Technical and social standards were disseminated. Training on key WASH issues for certified technicians from municipalities and Departments on project management and WASH community development were implemented in partnership with Nur University.

The Country Office contributed to increasing the number of inhabitants with access to water and sanitation services through national programmes, as well as the number of schools participating in MHM pilot interventions. Strengthening technical assistance for comprehensive and sustainable WASH services was a challenge due to factors such as: overlapping interventions in common geographical areas, lack of coordination between the national and sub-national levels and sub-sectoral methodologies that lack wide-ranging implementation. UNICEF supports decentralisation, advocating at all levels the generation of evidence and promoting inter-sectoral approaches, especially with health and education, to overcome these challenges, while at the same time contributing to accelerated actions to achieve the goals of the Patriotic Agenda 2025 and MDG targets, especially in sanitation; as well as those of the post-2015 development agenda.

OUTPUT 3 National and subnational capacity is strengthened to formulate and implement policies, norms and programs aimed at providing WASH services in rural areas, as well as identifying, monitoring, and analysing the fulfilment of human rights with respect to accessing water and sanitation services, with equity, gender and intercultural approach

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy are being carried out by the Bolivia Country Office as key strategies for ensuring the fulfilment of the national Constitution and human rights for accessing WASH services. UNICEF built capacity at both the national and sub-national levels. In partnership with the National Service for Basic Sanitation Services Sustainability, UNICEF provided technical assistance to support the optimisation of strategic planning at subnational level. By July 2015, the Potosi Departmental Water and Basic Sanitation Unit had elaborated its departmental plan for water and sanitation, incorporating the results of the WASH bottleneck analysis conducted in 2013. In addition, UNICEF supported the formulation of terms of reference for developing Departmental WASH Plans for Cochabamba, Chuquisaca and Pando. Regional bottleneck analyses for Chuquisaca and Cochabamba Departments were implemented with technical assistance from UNICEF. These activities will contribute to
increasing the number of Departments that have a WASH plan based on bottleneck analysis.

UNICEF, in coordination with the Inspection and Social Oversight Authority (AAPS), supported the training, information gathering and validation of requirements at the sub-national level to ensure the registration of water and sanitation local committees (CAPyS). Registration validates technical, social and financial data. CAPyS registration increases the sustainability of WASH services. The AAPS recognised the contribution of UNICEF in recent years in registering more than 2,000 rural local committees. CAPyS regulation is now the challenge, considering the good progress on registration. UNICEF supported improvement of the national monitoring of water and sanitation coverage. Since 2013, the MMAyA has assimilated UNICEF’s experience with the municipal mapping tool for water and sanitation services.

During 2015 UNICEF Bolivia supported data entry into the national system by supporting municipalities with training and technical assistance for collecting and validating data. Collecting information at the community level is still challenging. It is expected that the number of municipal governments with WASH mapping will increase by 2016, for which BCO is considering the application of innovative approaches. UNICEF is formulating an ICT strategy to strengthen WASH monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems using ICT, and is also participating in other relevant forums at the national and global levels, such as the WHO/UNICEF joint monitoring programme for water supply and sanitation.

OUTPUT 4 National capacity is strengthened to provide water, sanitation and hygiene services to girls, boys, women and families in humanitarian situations.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Humanitarian situations are recurrent in Bolivia, posing a risk to the population by undermining the provision of WASH services, through supply chains, and reducing the effectiveness of populations’ coping mechanisms, such as during the 2015 floods affecting Pando Department, especially Cobija City.

The child survival and development programme section, through its nutrition and WASH programmes, carried out emergency response joint actions, in accordance with UNICEF CCC, ensuring integrated programming, technical leadership and development of local capacities in Pando. With support from the UK National Committee, UNICEF Bolivia: strengthened national and sub-national capacities for emergency preparedness and response; implemented a gender and intracultural approach to assist affected communities and provided supplies at the family level, to ensure water quality and hygiene standards are met. In total, 1,392 families benefited from water filters and water tanks. UNICEF also promoted social mobilisation, participation and behaviour change for healthy practices, such as hand-washing with soap, safe faeces disposal, water management at consumption point and MHM, along with key proven nutrition practices, in flood-affected communities.

UNICEF continues to enhance emergency coordination, and response within the WASH sector, as WASH in Emergencies sector co-lead, together with the Ministry of Environment and Water. The Country Office ensured that efforts were carried out in coordination with non-emergency capacity development initiatives, including resilience promotion. During the second half 2015, a UN interagency project on WASH and nutrition was implemented in 12 municipalities in Northern La Paz and Beni that will benefit 200 families.

Challenges included in-house capacity to deal with emerging issues. For example, taking into account that there will be an increase in temperatures between 2.2°C and 7°C by the end of the
21st Century in Bolivia, and that 40.4 per cent of children under two years of age in Bolivia suffer still from diarrhoea every year, the population is continually exposed to humanitarian situations and will be at more risk of being affected due to climate change and resilience. Thus it is important to consider these issues in future planning and capacity development. Terms of reference for the WASH in Emergencies sector group were updated in 2015 with technical support from UNICEF.

OUTCOME 3 The equitable use of nutritional support and care practices for are improved among girls, boys, adolescents and women from disadvantaged communities in the intervention area.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
During the first half of 2015, the UNICEF Bolivia Country Office, through its CSD programme section and its nutrition programme component, continued its the equity approach, implementing the UNICEF theory of change to better define and carry out programmes, while at the same time supporting the equitable use of nutritional support and care practices among girls, boys, adolescents and women from disadvantaged communities.

Overall progress was made despite the elections, and subsequent changes in national and subnational authorities during the first semester. The lack of harmonisation between UNICEF’s and national and subnational planning processes also had an impact on implementation start dates in the beginning of the year. Implementation of alternative ways of working, to ensure timely actions for achieving equitable results for children, allowed timely implementation. The nutrition programme is promoting a multi-sectoral and integrated approach to tackling malnutrition.

The CSD section supported actions to reduce malnutrition and equity gaps, with an emphasis on Cochabamba and Potosí, contributing especially to reducing under-five chronic malnutrition and anaemia. By applying the theory of change, the programme took concrete actions at the national and sub-national levels, considering key bottlenecks, such as: nonexclusive breastfeeding; inadequate, inappropriate, unsafe and untimely introduction of complementary food; and lack of micronutrient supplementation and food fortification. Through capacity development, innovation and establishing cross-sectorial linkages, the nutrition programme is strengthening national and sub-national capacities, especially at the Government’s integral nutrition units (UNI) and through the baby-friendly hospital initiative (BFHI).

From the supply side, evidence generation through innovation was being implemented through a standardised monitoring and assessment of relief and transitions (SMART) in La Paz and Potosí Departments, which will report key data for better defining equity gaps in the selected intervention areas. UNICEF also supported the updating of three protocols for food fortification, with participation by key stakeholders, and has recently started a study to assess iodine deficiencies in Bolivia. Regarding an enabling environment, UNICEF Bolivia created and strengthened forums to discuss and plan malnutrition initiatives in conjunction with stakeholders from different levels.

In early 2015 the Country Office continued to consolidate the nutrition in emergencies sector, and responded to floods in Pando Department, specifically in Cobija City, where it implemented a joint programme with the WASH sector that allowed a CAP diagnosis on nutritional practices. In addition, this work strengthened local institutional capacities for preventing malnutrition during emergencies and benefited 430 families with home visits that promoted key nutrition practices.
UNICEF pre-positioned therapeutic nutritional supplies (RUFT) and nutrition and health promotion communication materials with all health networks in Beni Department. By the third quarter 2015 the MoH and UNICEF had also re-activated the nutrition in emergencies sector group, bringing together national and departmental authorities as well as civil society organisations working on nutrition. Considering that some forms of malnutrition that disproportionately affect women and girls from vulnerable groups, such as indigenous populations, a gender and multicultural approach were critical for ensuring the effectiveness of interventions during early 2015.

The Office continued to strengthen partnerships with the UK National Committee and with UN agencies, especially the FAO and UNIDO. Partnerships established in 2015 included: the Sustainable Development Fund, with a programme for improving child nutrition in Bolivia; the UN Joint Programme with FAO, UNDP, and IOM; and local and international NGOs, such as Action against Hunger and Sumaj Huasi.

**OUTPUT 1** Children, mothers, fathers, families and communities use key proven nutrition practices to prevent and treat chronic malnutrition and other forms of malnutrition.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**  
Behaviour change, knowledge and participation are critical for achieving success in nutrition. However, communities and families are often unaware of the importance of ensuring better nutritional status during the first 1,000 days of a child’s life. UNICEF considered the improvement of key proven practices essential for reducing stunting and other forms of undernutrition; the strategy was prioritised, and consolidated during the first semester of 2015.

UNICEF worked directly with communities from the selected intervention areas in Cochabamba and Potosi, and indirectly, by strengthening counselling offered by their health services. Strategies also focused on women, who are the primary caregivers in the selected communities. The nutritional strategies being implemented involve improvement of key practices and behavioural change, such as exclusive breastfeeding; adequate, safe, and appropriate complementary feeding; micronutrient supplementation; and food fortification.

During the first semester of 2015, UNICEF Bolivia implemented community-based interventions addressing micronutrients and young child nutrition counselling services, supported by health services during in-situ and outreach activities. Recently, BCO was in charge of implementing a communication strategy to promote community-level, key proven nutrition practices, as part of a Sustainable Development Goals Fund joint programme that will be running until the end of 2016. Communication materials being produced will be key tools for escalating the intervention’s impact in other prioritised intervention areas in Bolivia. Promotion of key proven practices targets mothers, children and other care-takers from prioritised communities from four municipalities in the intervention area. An inter-cultural approach was considered essential for improving access, and was focused on promoting and empowering social organisations, especially women on nutrition issues, assuring sustainability and local leadership.

The programme was complemented by other actions, especially for strengthening capacities regarding supply, and an enabling environment described in outputs 4.2 and 4.3. Challenges that delayed the start of the programme included: political changes; delays in the approval of grants; and administrative issues from the lead UN agency. Establishing alternative partnerships was a key strategy for overcoming challenges, and ensuring that implementation of actions and agreements with local partners contributed to keeping the plan on-track.
OUTPUT 2 Health services in priority areas implement effective nutrition interventions.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Strengthening institutional capacities at all levels is a priority for UNICEF’s Nutrition Programme. Nutrition Units from the MoH were the main focus of actions at the national and sub-national levels, including Departmental services, health networks and health facilities at all levels.

Capacity-development interventions focused on supporting the Government and other partners to build sustainable responses to nutrition challenges, including training and technical assistance. For example, 2.4 million children receive their required Vitamin A doses. UNICEF was also involved in strengthening nutrition services, including supplementation and fortification.

Evidence-generation through innovation is currently being implemented through SMART in La Paz and Potosi Departments, which will report key data for better defining equity gaps in the selected intervention areas. It was designed together with the MoH, Departmental health services, and the NGO Action against Hunger. Information on chronic malnutrition in under-five children, retrospective mortality, prevalent diseases, hygiene, and programme supplementation indicators will be collected. UNICEF Bolivia also supported the MoH in improving nutritional surveillance and ensuring human resource availability to implement situational rooms. Three protocols were used to update food fortification, including flour, salt and oil. In Potosi Department, training on salt iodisation and surveillance and control support is planned to target salt producers.

To date, UNICEF’s support resulted in: i) 125 Integrated Nutrition Units received training and were updated on nutrition counselling and tools; ii) 80 per cent of UNIs elaborated annual plans and started implementing them; iii) 160 health personnel from nine Departments were trained as facilitators and evaluators for the BFHI, and five additional hospitals were certified as baby-friendly. Challenges included delays in starting implementation of annual work plan until Departments registered financial contributions from UNICEF. Strategic alliances with the MoH, Departmental health services and local and international NGOs were key for producing timely results.

OUTPUT 3 Subnational governments identify bottlenecks and allocate resources for cost effective key nutrition multi-sectorial interventions.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Nutrition Programme continues to support sub-national governments in identifying bottlenecks and allocating resources for cost-effective key nutrition multi-sectorial interventions. The Programme worked to link nutrition interventions with those of other sectors to provide integrated services to girls, boys and women. Linkages with health and WASH sectors were particularly important during the first semester of 2015. Nutrition requires multi-sectoral efforts, and for that, UNICEF constantly raised awareness among different actors on the issue, including the difference between nutritional issues and both food security and other health issues.

Two UN joint programmes (UNICEF, FAO and UNIDO) were established in 2015, focusing on nutrition using a multi-sectoral approach aimed at strengthening sub-national capacities. The Sustainable Development Fund seeks to improve children’s nutritional situation by strengthening local production systems, linking nutrition and food security. It also strengthens dialogue forums for empowering social and official organisations on nutrition issues, as well as increasing local governments’ commitment to improving the nutritional status of their
populations. The other Joint Programme, the Interagency Resilience Project (UNICEF, FAO, PNUD, SP, AeA), funded by Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO), aims to intervene in 12 autonomous municipal governments in Northern La Paz and Beni, using a multi-sectoral approach covering WASH, nutrition, food security, risk management and disaster reduction. The project is still in the planning phase; the development of contingency plans and the strengthening of forums such as the nutrition in emergencies sector, will be key for implementation in 2016.

Consolidation of the nutrition in emergency sector continues, staff in charge of vitalising the sector is under recruitment. In 2015, MoH joined the Regional Integrated Nutrition Resilience Group. UNICEF supported the development of Law 602 on Disaster Risk Reduction, and through intense advocacy, was able to maintain the nutrition sector in emergencies forum, led by the MoH, and independent from food security. UNICEF generated key evidence including SMART, documenting the experience on emergency preparedness and response. Challenges during this period included delays in starting the implementation of joint programmes due to administrative issues and shortages and changes in key staffing positions within the MoH. These pitfalls were tackled by establishing alliances with other sectors and moving forward with the planning process to ensure timely action.

OUTPUT 4 Increased national capacity to ensure protection of the nutritional status of girls, boys and women in humanitarian situations.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Humanitarian situations are recurrent in Bolivia, posing a risk to nutrition by undermining the provision of service and supply chains, as well as making the population’s coping mechanisms less effective. In 2015 floods affected Pando Department, especially Cobija City.

UNICEF’s child survival and development section, through its nutrition and WASH programmes, carried out emergency response joint actions in accordance with UNICEF’s CCCs, ensuring integrated programming, technical leadership and development of local capacities in Pando. Considering the vulnerability of children and women in the area and the risk of acute malnutrition due to nutritional deficits and lack of key practices, UNICEF focused its actions on delivering nutritional counselling services for immediate lifesaving and lifelong benefits. Together with partners, including the MoH, Departmental health services and local NGOs, UNICEF Bolivia undertook several activities in affected area:

- CAP study on key proven nutrition practices and a survey on consumption of nutrition supplements among 430 families affected by the floods
- Home visits to 430 families, promoting key hygiene and nutrition practices
- Strengthening institutional capacities of technical staff from municipal autonomous governments and health personnel from Cobija City.

All parents of affected children between 0-23 months accessed counselling services on infant and child nutrition. No children with acute, severe malnutrition were detected. During the second semester of 2015, UNICEF strengthened the communities’ resilience for mitigating the risk, in joint action with other UN agencies in Departments normally affected by floods, with the aim of increasing preparedness and resilience in vulnerable indigenous communities using a multi-sectoral approach at the national and local levels. UNICEF Bolivia supported preparedness and response for nutrition emergencies due to El Niño, especially at the sub-national level, together with national authorities and the humanitarian country team. The Office has pre-positioned therapeutic nutritional supplies and communication materials in nine health
networks of El Beni Department. UNICEF continues to coordinate the nutrition in emergencies sector in Bolivia.

OUTCOME 4 Children and adolescents in the intervention area increased their access to learning, and completion of a culturally appropriate education at an adequate age and at early childhood, pre-school, primary and early secondary levels

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Bolivia’s achievements in fulfilling child and adolescent rights to education are significant, but exclusion is also evident as a result of uneven progress, as the following indicators demonstrate:

- Four out of 10 children of preschool age are not enrolled
- One out of 10 children enrolled in primary school do not transition to secondary school
- 49,000 children and adolescents aged six-to-13 are not enrolled in primary school, and approximately 145,000 aged 14-to-17 are not enrolled in secondary school
- 4 per cent of enrolled children and adolescents drop out before completing their schooling.

The main education indicators available show that:

- Net enrolment rate in preschool increased from 61 per cent in 2012 to 63 per cent in 2013, the rate for secondary rose slightly, from 78 to 79.5 per cent.
- In 2014, 2,132,393 boys and girls (all public primary and secondary students), from 14,000 schools, received the bonus Juancito Pinto (a programme of the government of Evo Morales in Bolivia which improves access to education by giving school vouchers to children), which may have led to improved retention, mainly in primary education.
- Most notably, primary school net enrolment ratio reached 99 per cent.
- The completion rate in 2012 was 53.9 per cent for primary education and 24.3 per cent for secondary education.
- It was not possible to evaluate learning outcomes; quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure outcomes in a participatory manner are being developed.
- According to INE household surveys, the urban-rural disparity in drop-out rates reflects the disadvantaged situation of children and adolescents in rural areas, especially with regard to secondary education.
- 41 of every 1,000 children enrolled in primary school stated that they had some type of disability; 1,062 more children than in 2011.

UNICEF supported the demand for quality education by setting-up and strengthening 420 new Local Community Education Councils (CESC) in municipalities and communities of four indigenous peoples (Quechua, Guarani, Aymara and Mojeño). Thirty per cent of these social participation-based organisations now have student representatives and 50 per cent have females (girls and adolescents) among their representatives.

To strengthen the supply of quality education to excluded groups, UNICEF Bolivia continued to provide technical support to the Ministry of Education (MINEDU) to implement the social, community and productive education model (MESCP) in 51 schools in eight selected districts, serving five indigenous peoples (Aymara, Quechua, Guarani, Yaminahua, and Machineri). Education appropriate to the organisation, language and culture of these indigenous peoples means that indigenous children in these formerly excluded areas learn better and want to stay in
The experience of bilingual children in rural areas of 15 municipalities (including Chiquitano, Yuki, Yaminahua, Machineri, Quechua, Guarani, and Mojeño Ignacio) has been extended with the organisation of 41 bilingual nests, two of them in urban areas (Aymara and Quechua). 890 children participated, as well as 159 grandmothers, mothers, fathers, and educators.

In ECD progress was made in strengthening the capacities of institutions and service providers. The agreement with Peru’s CEREBRUM Foundation and the Bolivian Catholic University to train 60 technical staff and 150 educators in neuroscience and education, motor skills development, language and mathematics learning, as well as emotional and cognitive development had a significant impact on the quality of services provided to children under five years.

Significant evidence was produced in 2015 year to support lobbying of authorities for increased investment in and design of cost-effective interventions to reach excluded groups: i) two sectoral evaluations, one on the Amazonian programme and the other related to the education municipal strategy; ii) baseline on ECD, based on MICS; iii) educational assessment of the Association of Municipalities of El Chaco (MMCH) using the SEE approach; and iv) national SITAN was completed along with three sub-national SITANs.

As part of the joint programme on disability, UNICEF coordinated its work with five UN agencies (UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, PAHO/WHO and the U.S. Office of Civil Rights). Progress was made regarding Bolivia’s adoption of the new “international classification of functioning, disability and health” approach, and MINEDU’s inclusion of the system for registering children and adolescents with disabilities in the education system.

The national working group on disaster risk reduction in education was fully reactivated and three departmental working groups were set up, in Tarija, Beni and Pando. The working groups have ToRs, partners were mapped, facilitators were trained in psycho-emotional care and supplies were pre-positioned to respond to emergencies. During the last emergency in Pando, 1,163 children were given support in the form of educational and psycho-emotional recovery activities.

Three main constraints were: i) weak technical capacity, ii) the slow pace of uptake of the knowledge produced by grassroots demonstration experiences that can be used as inputs for national and subnational policy feedback, and iii) funding from the education sector support fund came to an end in 2015. It will be a challenge for the Government to maintain the progress achieved without that budget support. One positive step forward, in terms of coordination between cooperation partners in education, was the reactivation of the Local Working Group on Education, under the leadership of UNICEF, la Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID) and Sweden, with participation by MINEDU.

**OUTPUT 1** Families and communities in priority areas are organized to support timely school entry, permanence and learning, particularly that of girls in pre-school, primary and early secondary levels

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF Bolivia supported families’ and communities’ demand for quality education by strengthening social participation in education. This was fundamental in defining policies, designing and implementing regionalised curricula, producing educative materials and overall education management and planning.
Implementation of the social participation structure in the pluri-national education system was expanded in 2015 with the setting-up of 420 new CESC in education districts and communities of four indigenous peoples (Quechua, Guaraní, Aymara and Mojeño). Progress toward reaching the target of 70 per cent of education councils in seven UNICEF-supported districts with education support plans in place by 2017 reached 43 per cent in 2015 (rising from 33 per cent).

Regarding progress made with the participation of children and adolescents in the education councils, 30 per cent of councils now have students participating actively, including representation by women, girls and adolescents. Cultural practices related to gender and adult-centric ideas about children have hindered greater progress; more awareness-raising work is required.

Through advocacy and technical assistance, UNICEF contributed to setting-up and empowering Local Community Education Councils (CESCP), particularly in rural and indigenous communities. Exemplary cases are the CESCP in the district of Villa Tunari and Tapacarí (Cochabamba) and Betanzos (Potosi) – all municipalities with a majority Quechua population – whose members are participating in the discussions of their respective municipal councils alongside mayors and councillors. Discussions covered municipal planning and budgeting and reviews of the implementation of the education component. These meetings analyse such issues as progress, shortcomings and constraints in the education sector with regard to infrastructure, water and sanitation services, school transport and teaching and learning materials.

The work done by UNICEF and its partners to strengthen the capacities of families and communities contributed to achieving increased investment and funds for improvements and expansion of school infrastructure, teaching and learning materials, libraries, school transport, computer rooms, the school breakfast and the installation of water and electricity services. Likewise, efforts to publicise legislation and train teachers, the community and students had an impact on improving access and permanence and the development of better teaching and learning processes for 54,535 children and adolescents in 442 schools. One output from this work was the publication of the leaflet “Social and Community Participation in Education,” which is now an official MINEDU guide.

With regard to constraints, the most important is the lack of resources available to the indigenous peoples’ education councils (CEPO) to strengthen their institutional status and capacity to perform the role established for them by law. UNICEF supported the drafting of a proposed law on CEPO sustainability, which is currently being analysed by the Indigenous People’s Commission in the Pluri-national Legislative Assembly.

OUTPUT 2 Educational services in priority areas implement innovative strategies that guarantee school entry, completion and learning of the most vulnerable children and adolescents.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
To strengthen the supply of quality education services, UNICEF continued to provide technical support to MINEDU and the Pluri-national Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures (IPELC) to implement the MESCP model in 51 schools in eight selected districts serving five indigenous groups.

Five new regionalised curricula were drawn-up and approved for additional indigenous peoples, benefiting 6,000 children from these communities (mostly in the Amazon region), identified as
highly vulnerable groups.

UNICEF supported the Pluri-national Observatory on the Quality of Education to define criteria for evaluating the application of the regionalised curricula, following an international conference on measurement, evaluation and accreditation of education quality. This work will be reinforced with the recent inclusion of Bolivia in UNESCO’s Latin American Laboratory for Assessment of the Quality of Education.

As part of the agreement between UNICEF and the World Bank, the municipalities of La Paz and El Alto have implemented the Quality Model in 64 childcare centres. The capacity strengthening work done under the agreement with the CEREBRUM Foundation from Peru to train 60 technical staff and 150 educators in neurosciences and education is producing concrete results in terms of the reorganisation of spaces and materials, as well as the redesign of routines for the children under five who attend these centres.

The MMCH finalised the first version of the “Quality Standards for Child Care Centres” and a paper on “Key Practices for Promoting Child Development in Families.” Municipal budget allocations to education increased by 15 per cent in the El Chaco municipalities (from US$4.5 million to US$5.3 million). These funds were invested in infrastructure, services, equipment and strengthening the demand side for: school transport, school breakfast, boarding facilities, textbooks, equipment for child development centres and emergency preparedness.

Under the coordination of IPELC, the early bilingual child initiative (bilingual nest) was expanded to rural areas in 15 municipalities. There are 41 bilingual nests; 890 children are participating in this programme, as well as 159 grandmothers, mothers, fathers and educators.

Progress with the joint programme on disability was slow due to political complications and the sector’s weak technical capacity. Challenges remain in the registration and classification of children with a disability, as well as the scarcity of human and material resources available to provide appropriate services to people with disabilities.

**OUTPUT 3** Capacity of public institutions is strengthened to plan, coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate cost-effective interventions in priority areas, with an equity-based approach.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF supported the development of counterpart capacities to analyse equity and use the relevant tools. The MMCH education situation analysis was finalised, using the MoRES approach and the SEE tool to analyse bottlenecks. Scenarios were developed with cost-effective interventions to address the bottlenecks in supply, demand and the enabling environment. The use of SEE in Bolivia is being documented with support from LACRO and UNICEF HQ.

UNICEF helped to set up five new language and culture Institutes among different indigenous peoples (mostly in the Amazon region), and new regionalised curricula were being developed.

The Departmental Government of Potosí approved the early childhood services programme, together with regulations for its implementation and a communications strategy for working with families and communities. UNICEF partnered with Tomas Frias University to carry out the baseline study in one municipality in 2015; baseline studies will be conducted in three more municipalities in 2016. The Departmental Government of Chuquisaca has the relevant
assessment for the design of the comprehensive Departmental services programme for children (under-five), including analysis of early childhood information from MMCH and two other municipalities.

Progress was made on evidence-gathering in nine municipalities, which determined their baseline situation in health, education and early childhood protection using a MICS-based ECD survey. The results are being used by municipal governments to plan actions aimed at strengthening capacities of state institutions and families to ensure that enabling environments are in place for ECD, using an equity-based approach. This experience was extended to other municipalities in Chuquisaca, Potosí, La Paz and El Alto. A report will be produced, analysing the results on the early childhood situation in seven rural municipalities and information on the situation of children attending urban childcare centres in the cities of La Paz, El Alto and Sucre.

The Ministry of Education received UNICEF support to draw up its proposed “Programme for Parents of Children aged 0-3”, which covers the initial stage of family and community education. It involves strengthening families’ capacities to provide integrated care and education to children in their earliest years. A cross-sectoral technical working group was set up, involving UNICEF, the ministries of health and justice and the indigenous peoples’ councils.

OUTPUT 4 Capacity of public institutions to ensure children and adolescent access to educational services in emergency situations is strengthened.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The national working group on disaster risk reduction (DRR) in education was reactivated, with technical support from UNICEF. The working group has ToRs and humanitarian partners were mapped. The working group developed four booklets and carried out four trainings targeting teachers, as well as producing five thematic guides for different types of events and for the development of safety plans for schools.

At the subnational level, three departmental working groups were reactivated, in Tarija, Beni and Pando. This result was not envisaged to be achieved in 2015, but there is evidence that capacities were developed, since each DRR Working Group has its preparation and response plan, an institutional structure and mechanisms for cross-sectoral coordination, particularly with the health and child protection sectors.

In these departments, 20 per cent of teachers were trained in the specialised units for ongoing teacher training. In addition, 90 teacher-facilitators in Beni were trained by the “Nuevo Sol” community wellbeing programme, but coverage was much wider because each trained teacher began training another 20 teachers in their education district.

The three departmental working groups pre-positioned supplies to respond to emergencies: tents and backpacks for schoolchildren and five outboard motors are available to provide river transport to children in some education districts.

In 2015, the civil defence vice-ministry declared a state of emergency due to floods. The Department of Pando was the most affected area, with 578 families affected (2,200 people). UNICEF provided support to the education working group in Cobija (the Departmental capital), which was responsible for emergency response. VIDECl, district education directorates, Pando’s departmental education directorate, MINEDUC, the municipal government of Cobija, Departmental COE, and Departmental governments also participated.
The education districts covered by the emergency response were El Porvenir, San Lorenzo and Cobija; 1,163 children were able to continue with their education as a result. A total of 801 children were supported with psycho-emotional recovery activities, 561 pre-schoolers and 240 primary school students. With the aim of making the psycho-emotional recovery support sustainable, UNICEF trained 56 local volunteers in the Nuevo Sol programme. Also, as part of the emergency response, UNICEF coordinated with MINEDUC and the Departmental education directorate to deliver backpacks to 1,000 schoolchildren in four municipalities.

**OUTCOME 5** Children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, are protected by a judicial framework that is aligned with international standards and have access to protection programs and services (including timely birth registration), that prevent and protect them from violence, negligence, abuse and exploitation

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
2015 highlighted the various challenges faced by the child protection system in Bolivia in term of demand, supply, coordination and the enabling environment. Political circumstances, election processes and changes in authorities affected the continuity of implementation of strategies and actions. Most were carried out in the second half of the year, although others were postponed until 2016.

Violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect are complex issues that are difficult to address, given their multiple causes and multi-sectoral responsibilities. Nevertheless, the work of the UNICEF Bolivia Country Office is bringing about significant changes, both in the supply of good quality services and in the enabling environment. The greatest challenge is to empower families with regard to demand for care, services and protection for children and adolescents, which takes a long time and requires systematic intervention. UNICEF is making steady progress, consolidating the community child protection strategy and developing a prevention model and child-rearing practices based on good treatment with the Guarani indigenous nation, among others. Centres for attention and care of victims of sexual violence were strengthened through the networks of Departmental social services, and two new CEPATs are expected to open (in Beni and Pando) in early January 2016, resulting in the presence of this specialised service in seven of Bolivia’s nine Departments.

The partnership with the private sector (TIGO) and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal confirmed the commitment to achieving universal birth registration. Meanwhile, the work being done with the the Guabirá and Unagro sugar industries made gradual progress with the application of the Triple Seal on their products, indicating that child labour was partially eliminated, together with discrimination and forced labour.

The Country Office supported improvements to the provision of child protection services, mainly through strengthening capacities (courses and specialised diplomas on child labour and juvenile justice); the development of protocols and tools to gather and analyse information, along with strategies and models; and the application of MoRES.

With regard to the enabling environment, UNICEF contributed to the design and implementation of national-level policies, working in partnership with the ministries of Justice, Labour, and Home Affairs; the Supreme Electoral Tribunal; Departmental social service networks; the Pluri-national School of Public Management and the Departmental governments of Santa Cruz, Pando, Tarija y Beni, among others.

A series of research studies launched last year were completed in 2015, and several were
published, providing evidence that can be used to improve services, support the development of plans and strategies and mobilise local institutional stakeholders.

With regard to the right to live within a family, UNICEF initiated a strategic alliance with Caritas – to develop an intervention strategy for children and adolescents living in institutions. The first areas of intervention will be the development and application of standards of quality service at homes, the design of protocols for reintegration of children into families and the identification of key actions to prevent child separation from families.

The work on emergency preparedness throughout the country and the support provided for the humanitarian response in Pando confirmed UNICEF’s commitment – and the added value it provides – in emergency situations, in line with the CCCs.

The main challenges for 2016 are to support the GoB in fulfilling commitments made in the new Child and Adolescent Code, report progress in response to CRC UN Child Rights Committee recommendations and ensure that there are no cuts in the budgets for child protection services.

OUTPUT 1 Families, communities and social organizations in priority areas promote good treatment, reject violence, and report all forms of violence against children and adolescents

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Thanks to partnerships forged between indigenous organisations (such as the Guarani People’s Assembly and the national level Vice-Ministry of Indigenous and Rural Community Justice) progress was made in encouraging families and communities to promote good treatment and reduce violence against children by implementing the community promoter strategy. As a result, 629 indigenous leaders and authorities were trained on child protection issues, and 190 new community promoters were appointed. They are responsible for preventing and reducing violence in their communities, coordinating their work with the Offices for the Defence of Children and Adolescents.

Nevertheless Bolivian society still maintains a high degree of acceptance of corporal punishment as part of parenting techniques, which normalises and justifies physical and psychological violence within families and communities. In response to this, and in partnership with the Vice-Ministry of Citizen Security, UNICEF developed a communication and social mobilisation strategy to prevent and reduce violence and promote good treatment. The challenge of producing evidence to guide the development of initiatives that seek to change behaviour in families and communities, and thus achieve a shift towards child-rearing practices based on good treatment, was addressed this year through a C4D research study in the Chaco Chuquisaqueño region, in a joint effort by UNICEF’s communication and education sections.

The current Child and Adolescent Code stipulates that private companies have a responsibility to assist with child protection. In this context, a partnership was built with Telecel TIGO, a company that is supporting the civil registry service to ensure timely and universal access to birth registration. In addition, together with LACRO and GSMA, an international workshop on child online protection was held April 20-21, to sensitisise authorities and the public on the dangers of the new technologies. The workshop included the promotion of the “Guidelines for Industry on Child Online Protection” and the presence of UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Chavo Salvatierra. Finally, a larger percentage of sugar produced in the Guabirá and UNAGRO mills is now free from child labour, as a result of promoting application of the Triple Seal.
OUTPUT 2  Children and adolescent victims of all forms of violence, abuse and negligence in priority areas have access to institutional protection services, with a focus on gender and interculturality

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Building capacities in the specialisations required for protection services continues to be one of the main challenges in the country, together with the definition of professional profiles and permanence of professionals.

In alliance with the Pluri-national School of Public Management, the national training strategy continued to be implemented around the country to train and enhance public servants’ competencies. The design of specialised courses and training for 2015 was based on indications from the Child and Adolescent Code, some of the most important of which were three online diplomas on Child and Adolescent’ Rights, Juvenile Criminal Justice and Child Labour. With the Police Academy, a specialised course on violence and protection of children and adolescents was designed and offered to police officers. In coordination with LACRO and UNICEF Uruguay, judges and professionals from SED EPOS participated in the XVIII Child Rights Protection, facilitated by Diego Portales University, with a special focus on juvenile justice. The potential to share other experiences in the region was an extra asset for the training of Bolivian participants.

Complementary to this official training, UNICEF substantially contributed to reducing the gap in the development of child protection tools. This work was based on developing tools and protocols that contribute, firstly, to building capacities in the services, and secondly to the launch of new programmes and services. Some of the most important of these protocols and tools were: the national protocol on children and adolescents in street situations, the “guidelines for opening special centres for adolescents and alternatives to the deprivation of liberty,” the implementing plan for the specialised system for adolescents in conflict with the law and special protocols for SED EPOS programmes. Operationalisation of specialised services was consolidated, including: therapeutic care centres for victims of sexual violence, of which there are seven country-wide; the orientation centre for adolescents on alternatives to the deprivation of liberty in Santa Cruz, which has supported 143 adolescents in conflict with the law; and the continued use of the Gesell Chamber by the Victims and Witnesses Unit of the Prosecutor’s Office.

The Pluri-National State of Bolivia made significant progress on the subject of birth registration; 88 per cent of children under five now have a birth certificate. However, more than 170,000 children are still without a birth certificate. Support is being provided to the TSE to take forward strategies to reduce this gap. This year 25 hospitals had a civil registry office, 10,302 births were registered in hospitals, and 12,463 children were issued a birth certificate. The collaboration with private sector (Telecel TIGO) played a role in these multi-sectorial efforts to reduce the gap. To contribute to this institutional strengthening work, the “Study on the Current Status of the Civil Registry in Bolivia” was under way in late 2015, as was a MoRES analysis of birth registration in the region of Chaco Chuquisaqueño.

OUTPUT 3 Capacity of public institutions (national and subnational), within the framework of protection, have an improved legal framework and strengthened its capacity to plan, coordinate, implement, and monitor cost-effective interventions, with a rights- based and equity-based approach.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Since the Child and Adolescent Code was approved in July 2014, the enabling environment has been strengthened, presenting opportunities and conditions for drawing up policies and plans to provide guidelines for implementing children’s rights. The environment also strengthened the general public’s capacity to demand enforcement of children and adolescents’ rights. These trends were taken forward at both the central Government and sub-national levels.

Development of models, innovations, and good practices in child protection services has proven to be an important advocacy tool for the formulation of policies and plans, as well as for scaling up in other regions.

During 2015, the integrated (and multi-sectorial) prevention and support model for children and adolescents living in the streets, developed and approved at the national level in 2014, was adapted and replicated in the municipalities of La Paz, Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and Tarija.

Regarding birth registration, the model “Zero undocumented municipalities” reached out cumulatively to 62 municipalities, and 12,463 beneficiaries received their documentation.

Two additional models were also being developed: the integrated model to guarantee the right to live in a family, in alliance with Caritas, in Cochabamba; and the child-friendly market model, which aims to reduce risk and child labour at markets, with SEDEPOS Departmental Social Policies Services, in the Santa Cruz.

Led by the Ministry of Labour and following a review and revision process, the multi-sectorial and inter-ministerial public policy “Bolivia – A Country Free of Forced, Dangerous Child Labour and Exploitation” is in its final review stage (with the Unit of Analysis of Social and Economic Policies), preparatory to approval through institutional procedures (for example a Supreme Decree). This official document provides orientation and establishes the guidelines for planning national and sub-national plans to eradicate the causes that originate child labour. The allocation of national budget funding will also be ensured in this process, resulting in sustainability.

OUTPUT 4 Children and adolescents in emergency situations that have access to services protecting them from violence and providing psycho-affective recovery therapy.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Recurrent emergencies due to climate change – particularly floods– and the effects these have on communities and municipalities mean that hundreds of children and adolescents and their families are forced to abandon their homes and seek protection in shelters and camps on a regular basis. The problem is made worse when child protection services are absent or their institutional structures are fragile or not ready to respond in emergency situations.

In 2015 the flood emergency in Pando affected more than 1,000 families, including about 2,000 children and adolescents, some of whom had to temporarily move into shelters. Regrettably, and as a consequence of a lack of human and financial resources, the Pando’s Departmental Social Protection Service was unable to respond to all needs of the affected population.

As a result of advocacy and negotiations advanced by UNICEF Bolivia, the Human and Social Development Secretariat took over leadership of the Protection Working Group, coordinated actions with other institutions and made the psycho-emotional recovery programme viable. Thanks to UNICEF’s presence on the ground, risk factors to prevent all forms of violence against children and adolescents were identified and a timely response was put in place to
reduce risks and provide greater security to children, adolescents and women. UNICEF also supported implementation of the “Nuevo Sol Community Wellbeing” Programme with 889 children and adolescents, who benefited from this programme and were able to reduce their anxiety and return to normality more quickly. In conjunction with UNICEF’s Education Programme, work was done with the national education system to ensure that the psychosocial recovery support reached more children and adolescents in schools.

This process included the completion of “Nuevo Sol Community Wellbeing” guides, with an adaptation for children aged three-to-five, which were used in schools with pre-school children. As a timely emergency preparedness response to the threat posed by El Niño, UNICEF Bolivia supported four training workshops on the minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian action – including a gender perspective – aimed at 175 officials from risk management units, departmental social protection services and child and adolescent defence municipal offices from all nine Departments in Bolivia. It is foreseen that these capacities will be applied in a timely and strategic response that will reduce violence and trauma in children, adolescents and women facing emergency situations.

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#### Lessons Learned

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