

Chile

Part 1: Situation update in the country

Political context

The year 2018 was a year of transition in Chile with a change of Government, and it was the first year of the UNICEF Country Programme 2018-2022. The new Government took office in March 2018, led by a former President in his second non-consecutive term (his first term was 2010 to 2014). His administration has an active involvement in the private sector, and with the younger generation.

Recently, the Government established four measures to install a much-needed comprehensive child protection system: implementation of the National Policy on Children and Adolescents 2015-2025; a national action plan; an undersecretary for children in the Ministry of Social Development; and a children's ombudsperson, the first of its kind in the Latin American region.

Children's rights are considered in the four priorities of the government agenda. The new Government fully assumed the National Plan of Action for Children and Adolescents 2018-2025, prepared by the previous administration with strong support of UNICEF since 2016. UNICEF advocated with all presidential candidates during the presidential campaign in 2017 for the importance of placing children in the centre of the Government agenda, and the consistency in implementing plans and strategies to guarantee children's rights.

In June, the Government submitted the National Agreement for Children with 94 concrete proposals of short, medium and long-term actions for children. It is a road map to promote and protect the comprehensive development of all children in Chile with 3 main axes: 1) universal protection and promotion of the integral development of all children and adolescents; 2) prevention of the risk of violation of the rights of children and adolescents; and 3) protection and restitution of rights to children and adolescents whose rights had been violated.

Of importance is proposal 38, which states the urgency of creating a new specialized protection service under the Ministry of Social Development, which will replace the National Service for Children, to respond to children whose rights have been threatened or violated. The institutional reform transfers the state response to adolescents in conflict with the law from National Service for Children to the newly established National Service of Youth Social Reintegration, under the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. UNICEF has contributed to this reform since 2010 through technical analysis and political discussions.

Two laws that advance children's rights were promulgated in 2018. In January, a law was enacted to create the Children's Ombudsperson. Advocacy by UNICEF is reflected in the roles of the Children's Ombudsperson: independence and autonomy; monitoring and supervising the situation of children's rights in all aspects, and not only in the power of representation before the courts of justice; action on the violation of children's rights in all sectors, such as public and

private bodies, non-governmental organizations and academia; and financial autonomy, which will allow its gradual establishment of local representation in the country.

The second law was the creation of the Undersecretary of Children under Ministry of Social Development enacted in April. Children in Chile now count on a high-level institution that "will oversee the rights of children to promote and protect their exercise in accordance with the Child Protection System and in conformity with the Political Constitution of the Republic and its legal framework."

Economic context

Chile is a high-income country with one of Latin America's fastest-growing economies in recent decades, enabling the country to reduce poverty. In 2018, Chile ranked 44th on the United Nations Development Programme Human Development Index, recoiled from its 38th ranking in 2016. However, Chile has a high inequality index among Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, challenging the gains of its fast-growing economy to reach all sectors of the population.

Economic growth was projected to increase by 2.8 per cent in 2018, by improving external demand and investment, and accommodating financial conditions. Projections are that the unemployment rate will remain stable, and wages will grow, both of which are expected to lower income disparities and raise consumption.

Private sector

The Government reinforced its alliance with Chile's active private sector by launching "country commitment" in October, in which the private sector has a role in providing solutions to 16 areas that affect the most vulnerable populations including children, such as health, education, justice and social development.

UNICEF Chile's private sector fundraising is on a path of rapid growth. The steady growth in in-country fundraising has been based almost exclusively on individual pledge donors, who provide a constant income flow from monthly contributions. These funds are flexible and unrestricted, and allow UNICEF Chile to fund its country programme and contribute to regular resources, regional thematic funds and global emergencies.

UNICEF Chile is expanding corporate fundraising through private companies, a potential confirmed in a 2014 market research and analysis, was and a study led by Private Fundraising and Partnerships in Geneva. UNICEF Chile will also explore new ways to engage the private sector more actively with the children's agenda.

Inequity affecting children

Chile is among the least equitable of the OECD countries. Despite economic growth, inequalities persist, disproportionately affecting children: 56 per cent of children and adolescents live in households that belong to the poorest quintiles, and 23 per cent of households with children live in multidimensional poverty, according to Survey on the National Socioeconomic Characterization 2017.

Children and adolescents who have disabilities have less access to education in Chile. The net-attendance primary education rate of children with disabilities is 88.7 per cent, compared to 95.8 per cent for children without disabilities; in high school, 49.9 per cent of adolescents with disabilities attend, compared to 82 per cent of those without disabilities. Only half of students

with disabilities aged 14 to 17 attend secondary schools, according to MSD. Of the children and adolescents with disabilities who attend school (four to 17 years old), 15.5 per cent are in preschool, 11.8 per cent at special education centres, 60.7 per cent at primary schools, and 12 per cent at secondary schools, according to Ministry of Education.

Indigenous children are 12.9 per cent of the total child population, a group that is highly vulnerable to poverty: 19.7 per cent of indigenous children live in income poverty, compared with 13.1 per cent of non-indigenous children; and 30.6 per cent of indigenous children live in multidimensional poverty, compared to 21.7 per cent of non-indigenous children (CASEN 2017).

Violence against children

Violence against children is widespread in Chile. A 2012 UNICEF Chile study found that seven out of 10 children suffer abuse from parents, limited progress from the first study in 1994. Among them, 51.5 per cent suffered physical violence, and 19.5 per cent suffered psychological abuse. The study also indicates that violence affects the child's school performance: 27.8 per cent of children are victims of serious physical violence, and average lower grades than those who have not. More than 20 per cent students in primary and secondary schools reported having experienced violence in schools, while more than 24 per cent reported having perpetrated it, according to Ministry of the Interior, Survey of School Violence (2014).

Children who are institutionalized

The abuse, neglect and violence against children who are institutionalized is of critical concern. In 2018, according to data from National Service for Children, over 225,000 children and adolescents were under the protection of the state; violence has separated over 18,000 children from their families, placing more than half of them in residential care. Other children stayed with families or family care and received local services and programmes. The same source revealed that over 210 institutionalized children had died in the residential centres of National Service for Children in the previous 11 years, many as a result of abuse, violence and neglect.

Although Chile has reduced the number of children who are institutionalized by 48 per cent, from 27,000 in 2006 to 9,488 in 2018, the figures remain high. There is a consensus that poverty is the cause of admission, and the admittance system is excessively judicialized.

In 2018, media and Chilean society continued to voice their deep concern about this situation. In his inauguration address, the President committed to make immediate changes to end such institutional abuse and violence against children.

Based on a case appeal by a former congressperson, the Convention on the Rights of the Child Committee experts visited Chile in January to review the situation, and submitted a report in June. The Government made the report public in July, with a powerful reaction in Chilean society, calling the situation a "shame" for a high-income country, and demanding an urgent reform of National Service for Children and the situation of the children in institutions. The report identified the causes of abuse and neglect, and urged the Government for immediate changes in the National Service for Children's residential system, with the closure of large institutions being the most urgent.

In response, the Government is accelerating institutional and legal reforms, including the

separation of institutionalized children (to be placed under the Ministry of Social Development) from adolescents in conflict with the law (which will remain under the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights). UNICEF Chile has worked closely with the National Service for Children since 2010, to develop and implement different models of alternative care and reduce institutionalization of children; increase support to vulnerable families to avoid separation, and facilitate family reintegration.

Adolescents in conflict with the law

A violent case committed by an adolescent shocked the public in May 2018, and generated strong opinions to lower the punitive age and harden sanctions. UNICEF Chile advocated for the contrary with evidence, while maintaining the argument that adolescents who commit crimes against the law must face consequences, according to the Adolescent Criminal Responsibility Law (2007). This law created a penal system for adolescents, with established procedures, sanctions and measures to facilitate their social reintegration by applying alternative measures instead of the deprivation of liberty.

However, the excessive use of detaining adolescents who are in conflict with law continues to be common in the juvenile justice system. In 2018, 3,900 adolescents in conflict with the law were deprived of their liberty in closed and semi-closed regimes, and as a preventive measure. Despite the previous years' prediction to decrease the number of adolescents deprived of liberty, the practice continues. Challenges remain in the legal and regulatory framework, in the capacity of the judicial system to respond in accordance with international standards, lack of specialization in the judicial system, the limited use of mediation and conflict resolution, and limited application of alternative measures.

Immigrants from Venezuela

With over 2.6 million refugees and migrants outside Venezuela, Latin America is experiencing the largest exodus in its history. As of October 2018, 108,000 Venezuelan immigrants were legally documented in Chile, with access to work and social services. Chile is perceived as a destination due to its economic stability and accessible, functioning administrative procedures to obtain legal resident status as migrants. The number of Venezuelan immigrants in Chile is on a rapid rise; it is estimated that there will be 240,000 Venezuelans by December 2019, according to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

UNICEF worked in coordination with UNHCR and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and proposed an inter-sectoral coordination mechanism with the Ministry of Interior. Emergency response is provided by UNHCR and IOM on the border with Peru; UNICEF is working with the Government to establish protocol for undocumented children to avoid family separation. In Chile, the most critical need has been identified as job security of immigrants.

Social tensions with Mapuche indigenous group

The Mapuche is the largest indigenous group in Chile. They live primarily in the southern region of La Araucanía, which has a history of violence, contained by the police. The Government reported 2,895 acts of violence during the last eight years including fires, events involving gunshots, attacks on the police and road blocks.

In September, the Minister for Social Development launched Plan Araucanía, to create a council for peace in La Araucanía; compensation for victims of violence in La Araucanía; and to promote local economic development. The Plan was accompanied by a security plan of the Ministry of Interior and Public Security for La Araucanía, led by the police special forces.

A number of social unrest events were reported in Santiago and in La Araucanía following the death of a young Mapuche community member in November, by a gunshot fired by the police. The incident also involved an arbitrary arrest of a 15-year-old adolescent who was later released following advocacy by the Children's Ombudsperson and the National Institute of Human Rights, who had filed complaints against the police for torture.

Tensions were sparked again after the authorities offered a confusing explanation of the incident. It created a political crisis in the Government, with conflicting positions among ministers, and led to the resignation of two high-level police members in La Araucanía; four police involved in the incident were dismissed, accused of destroying the evidence.

UNICEF Chile Country Programme Document 2018-2022

The year 2018 was the first year of the new Country Programme Document 2018-2022, coinciding with a new Government administration and parliament, with new politically diverse members.

The Country Programme Document 2018-2022 advances Chile's efforts for the realization of children's rights, as well as to promote social inclusion of the most vulnerable children beyond its borders. It focuses on strengthening a comprehensive child protection system through two programme components: equity and social inclusion, and child protection and justice.

UNICEF Chile is a trusted partner for children's issues, in a high-income country context. In particular, UNICEF Chile's value is acknowledged in supporting the Government to meet international standards in legislative frameworks, programmes and services. UNICEF's role as a convener is an opportunity to innovate with new partners in the private sector, centres of excellence, civil society, communities, and with children and adolescents themselves. UNICEF Chile aims to ensure the highest standards to reach results under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and Sustainable Development Goals.

With a new oversight institution, the Children's Ombudsperson, the result of UNICEF advocacy over the years, UNICEF Chile is reinforcing its role to monitor the risk of regressing on child rights' issues such as migration, indigenous children and the use of police force. UNICEF Chile continued to advocate to broaden, strengthen and focus the Government's agenda for children, which can be influenced by media reporting.

UNICEF actively participated in the United Nations Country Team in 2018 and with the development of UNDAF 2019-2022, which is aligned with the UNICEF Chile Country Programme.

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

Goal 1: Every child survives and thrives

Early childhood development

Investing in early childhood development is embraced by the new Government, identified as a key priority. Based on UNICEF Chile advocacy, the Government maintains and promotes Chile's well-known early childhood development programme 'Chile CreceContigo' (Chile Grow

with You). The programme's inter-sector collaboration and local-management model are being consolidated for scale-up, and for expansion to include older children. To accelerate the process, UNICEF Chile is undertaking a study to identify the bottlenecks and barriers to a timely and quality response to children's development needs.

UNICEF Chile's support to Chile CreceContigo was reinforced by the visit of the UNICEF Executive Director in November. The programme's value was acknowledged, as was its acceleration for universal coverage for all children five to nine years old, and at a later stage to all children up to 18 years old. This was reinforced by the Executive Director. UNICEF Chile provides the technical assistance in the on-going expansion efforts, which faces challenges.

Responding to UNICEF Chile's recommendations, the Government is empowering families to play active roles in providing care and protection, with parental skills from the Positive and Respectful Parenting Route, as a part of the National Agreement for Children. UNICEF advocated to ensure that the Route is aligned with UNICEF's global Standards for Early Childhood Parenting Programmes (2017). UNICEF facilitated the process to adapt the global standards to Chile's reality, with national experts' contribution, including: reinforce professional training to strengthen the trusting relationship with families; reinforce existing community initiatives and local support networks; and evaluate and monitor the cost-effectiveness of the programmes. The Respectful Parenting Route will provide guidelines to strengthen parenting programmes of the public and private, early childhood development services in the country.

Goal 2: Every child learns

Out-of-school children

Based on UNICEF Chile advocacy for the Children's Agenda 2018-2025, the number of out-of-school children in Chile (approximately 72,000 children in 2017) is falling. The Government is building on UNICEF's suggestions to establish "second-chance schools," which will facilitate out-of-school children to enrol for the first time or to re-enter the education system. This model will be supported by an early warning mechanism to detect risks and to prevent school dropout.

National Strategy for Public Education

Another key result of UNICEF's advocacy was the development of the first National Strategy for Public Education in 2018, which provides the framework for all public schools in the country. This achievement was based on UNICEF advocacy in 2017 contributing to the promulgation of the Public Education Law that defined: the development of the National Strategy for Public Education; changes in the administration for public schools from the municipalities to the Ministry of Education; and the creation of Local Education Services under the Ministry of Education at the municipalities' level.

Since this National Strategy will affect 36 per cent of the country's students (1,273,530 children), enrolled in all 4,925 public schools in the country, UNICEF Chile's technical assistance will ensure the Strategy is consistent with the highest standards to fulfil children's right to education, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Early learning

In a coalition of 40 institutions from civil society and the private sector, UNICEF Chile joined efforts to submit a 'Plan Initial' to the Government with recommendations to strengthen preschool education in Chile. The Plan was based on a diagnosis and identification of challenges, and proposals to promote the quality of education and empowering families. The

Undersecretary of Preschool Education of the Ministry of Education responded by announcing actions aligned with the Plan, including incorporating information on young children's development into the existing education information system of the Ministry of Education; and improving the pre-school financing system to ensure equal distribution of resources regardless of the administration system. Other proposals included the expansion of service coverage for better access.

Violence in schools

Ironically, worthy intentions to protect children from violence in school can result in violating other children's rights to education. UNICEF Chile thus advocated intensely to defend an inclusive school environment, free from discrimination, during the Congressional discussion of the "Safe Classroom Act." The draft law proposes the immediate expulsion of students involved in acts of violence, without due process nor measures to ensure the continuity of education for expelled students.

UNICEF Chile developed an advocacy strategy to mitigate the draft law's contents that violated children's rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. After transmitting UNICEF's position at the Congress' hearing, some of UNICEF's proposals were incorporated, such as the elimination of immediate school expulsion, students' right to be heard and to defend themselves, and the Ministry of Education's responsibility to ensure the educational reinsertion of the expelled students.

UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Government to develop a National School Environment Policy to reduce violence in schools, and to promote an inclusive learning environment. Schools will have guidelines to improve mechanisms for peaceful conflict resolution, and for safe and inclusive school environments to improve children's learning outcomes, positive educative experiences, empathy and dialogue skills. UNICEF Chile contributes by reviewing various school regulations, existing school co-existence handbooks, and rights-based action protocols, in line with international standards, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and national legislation. UNICEF is also reviewing the performance of schools' mechanisms to prevent and resolve conflicts, with recommendations for improvement. In 2019, UNICEF Chile will provide technical support on the national training process for school co-existence team, and for the design educational materials for teachers and students.

Goal 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

Children who are institutionalized

The abuse, neglect and violence against children in institutions is a critical child protection concern in Chile. Over 18,000 children are currently separated from their families and in alternative care, with 9,488 children in residential care under the administration of National Service for Children (Ministry of Justice). During the previous 11 years, 865 children associated with National Service for Children died; 210 of these died in the National Service's residential centres. Employees of the National Service for Children have been convicted for their involvement in abuse, neglect and violence against children; others are under investigation.

There is consensus on the excessive judicial admittance system, and that poverty is often the main cause of admission to residential centres. The media and Chilean society often voice a deep concern about the situation, including the President's commitment in his inaugural speech to make immediate changes to end institutional abuse and violence against children

Based on a case appeal made by a former Congressperson, the Convention of the Rights of the Child Committee experts visited Chile in January to review the situation, and submitted a report in June. The report was made public by the Government in July, and generated a strong reaction in society, declaring the situation as 'a shame' for a high-income country, and demanding urgent reform of National Service for Children and institutionalized children.

The Committee members' report stated: "the systematic nature of the violations is due ... to repeated inaction and the incapacity to change laws, policies and practices that have been made known through several reports by the authorities as repeatedly violating rights of children and adolescents under the tutelage of the State." The report urged the Government to take immediate action to change the residential system administered by National Service for Children, with the closure of large institutions being the most urgent.

In response, the Government is accelerating institutional and legal reforms in line with UNICEF Chile's recommendations over the years. Two key laws are under discussion at Parliament to separate the responsibilities for children in need of special protection. One law will establish a new National Child Protection Service under the Under-secretariat of Children within the Ministry of Social Development; and another to establish a national service for juvenile reintegration for adolescents in conflict with the law, under the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights.

In October 2018, with UNICEF Chile's support, National Service for Children opened its first "family house", which meets international standards, and hosts up to 15 children cared by 36 adults working in shifts. The two largest residential centres are closing. UNICEF support to the National Service for Children since 2010 developed and implemented models of alternative care options to reduce the institutionalization of children, to increase support to vulnerable families to avoid separation and to encourage family reintegration. UNICEF will continue to accompany the Government to monitor and assess the family house models to reduce the number of children living in residential centres and promote alternative care models (including a pilot implemented by the non-government organization, Hogar de Cristo).

These and other endeavours, including partnerships with the private sector, are expected to replace the institutionalization of children by making family separation a last resort. In recent years, changes in progress were proposed by UNICEF Chile's technical support with decision makers such as the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, and then discussed with National Service for Children. In 2018, UNICEF Chile elaborated technical documents for the Ministry of Justice and with the National Service for Children on the right to live in a family environment; the deinstitutionalization of young children (under four years old); and attorney judicial representation of children.

The UNICEF Executive Director's visit to one of 11 residential centres of National Service for Children in November was a show of UNICEF support to Government counterparts, while urging the Government to accelerate the reform and the closure of the residential centres within two years.

Violence against children

During the first year of the country programme, when evidence should shape the strategies to prevent and end violence against children, UNICEF Chile undertook a study to measure the different forms of violence against children, and begin to analyze perceptions, knowledge, attitudes, and practices of caregivers, decision-makers and children. This will be the basis for

in-depth knowledge, attitudes, and practices future studies. The analysis will be available in 2019 to strengthen policies on prevention, attention and response to violence against children, within the framework of national plans and goals.

During the UNICEF Executive Director visit to Chile, UNICEF Chile invited the Government to become a champion by achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16.2 to end all forms of violence against children, and become a model for other countries in the region. The Government has embraced this challenge. UNICEF will convene different actors to reach goals set for the National Plan of Action for Children and Adolescents 2018-2025 and the National Agreement for Children. For example, there are proposals to empower families and caregivers on positive parenting; promote actions to eradicate all forms of violence against children; and improve capacity of counselling helpline to be expanded up to 17 years old. Joining the Global Alliance to End Violence Against Children and becoming a future high-income path-finder country is a possibility to progressively eradicate violence.

UNICEF Chile, the Embassy of Switzerland and the Municipality of Renca (in the Santiago metropolitan region) joined efforts and knowledge to develop a local strategy to prevent violence in schools. In November, a local workshop was organized with the participation of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children to reinforce the role of local government to fight violence against children. The results of this activity will shape the local government agenda to prevent and end violence with the community, with a possibility to replicable in other municipalities.

Children on the move

As of October 2018, 108,000 Venezuelan immigrants were legally documented in Chile, with access to work and social services. Chile is perceived as a destination for its economic stability, and its accessible and functioning administrative procedures to obtain legal resident status as migrants. The number of Venezuelan is rising; it is estimated that 240,000 Venezuelans will be in Chile by December 2019, according to UNHCR.

The Government of Chile and UNICEF are working to identify solutions to offer legal status to undocumented children crossing the border into Chile. There are cases of children entering Chile from Peru with their families without valid documents; the children are exposed to the risk of family separation according to national legislation. UNICEF Chile shared protocols and case management tools from countries with a similar context in the region, and assisted the Government in analysing the feasibility of adapting these instruments.

To strengthen the knowledge of government officials and staff to improve the protection of children on the move, UNICEF Chile accompanied a key government official from the international police to a UNICEF regional workshop on the minimal standards for children on the move, held in Lima in November. UNICEF Chile will support the Government to replicate the workshop in the country in early 2019.

Juvenile justice

UNICEF Chile helped improve the quality of services for adolescents deprived of liberty, who were affected by violence before and while being institutionalized. UNICEF helped monitor the situation of adolescents in conflict with the law through the commission of supervision of detention centres for adolescents in conflict with the law. In 2018, 12 visits were undertaken, and UNICEF systematized the visits' recommendations in a report to facilitate monitoring and follow-up.

The implementation of the previous country programme and the situation analysis identified needs of stakeholders to protect the children's rights, as well as adolescents in conflict with the law. In support of the Supreme Court, UNICEF Chile started to raise a base line to identify jurisprudence and the application of the best interest of the child when family courts and criminal courts make judicial decisions. The findings will guide UNICEF Chile recommendations to the judicial system and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights on a process for juvenile-justice professionals. The application of the best interest of the child will be measured again in 2020 to determine progress.

Goal 5: Every child has an equitable chance in life

Adolescent participation: Concausa

In 2018 the participation of adolescents through the Concausa initiative ('With a cause') made a leap. Concausa is a tri-partite initiative by UNICEF Chile, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the non-government organisation América Solidaria. Started in 2016 to empower adolescents to reduce child poverty in the region, the work helps achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Concausa regional meeting took place at Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago with the UNICEF Executive Director who encouraged the adolescents' commitment to make positive changes, and invited them to join Generation Unlimited.

After three years of successful experience in Chile, UNICEF Chile's leadership will hand over to UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Region Office for better coverage in the regional network, and to strengthen adolescent participation.

In 2018, 696 short project videos of adolescents' local initiatives to achieve Sustainable Development Goals were presented by 2,088 adolescents from 15 to 17 years old, from 17 countries in the region. An estimated 60 per cent of the participants were girls. It was an almost 100 per cent increase from 2017 with 1,023 adolescents and 341 projects, and a 400 per cent increase from 2016. The projects themes varied, with the most in quality education, health and well-being, sustainable cities and communities, ending poverty, inequity reduction, and eco-systems. One project from each country was selected to participate in the regional Concausa meeting in November in Chile. During the meeting, 50 adolescents (34 girls and 16 boys) were empowered to become agents of change during the regional meeting. They learned different skills to express themselves, in project development, in innovative solutions to problems and to strengthen their commitment in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in their community.

The successful results of Concausa are reflected in the decision to transfer it from UNICEF Chile to the UNICEF regional office. The country office will continue to focus support on adolescents' work in Chile. In 2018, two local summits were organized: in Arica with 200 adolescents, and in Osorno with 120 adolescents, in order to spread the Concausa movement. In Santiago, the first TEDxYouth talk ('TEDxJoven') was organized in December. Five adolescent speakers shared their experiences, reflections and opinions on education, gender equality, environment and violence; over 200 adolescents participated.

Social inclusion of immigrant children

With a sharp rise of immigrant children from Venezuela and other countries, the characterization of children on the move is now being identified jointly by UNICEF, civil society

partners (World Vision and Colunga Foundation) and the Pontifical Catholic University. The study is the first in the country to understand those children, and identify the barriers and bottlenecks faced by the immigrant children in exercising their rights and access basic social services. The findings will inform policy makers' decisions. Preschools will be among the priorities of social inclusion of immigrant children, as the Government has expressed concerns and commitment.

UNHCR and UNICEF articulated the challenges and opportunities that children who live with the reality of immigration face, with a story contest entitled, "My Nationality Has a Story." Two hundred and fifty children and adolescents from fifth to eighth grades in 55 schools participated. Each story told a dimension of the difficulties and experiences (both negative and positive) that children and adolescents face. The story that won was about how the writer's heart is divided among three countries, where she has lived, the importance of a nationality and identity, and the importance of living cultures, habits and traditions of each country. The process illustrated how to engage schools and the education system in the social inclusion of immigrant children.

National plan of action for children and adolescents

The new Government has fully assumed the National Plan of Action for Children and Adolescents 2018-2025, prepared by the previous government with strong support by UNICEF since 2016. UNICEF Chile advocated with each presidential candidate during the 2017 presidential campaign the importance of placing children at the centre of the Government agenda, and the consistency in implementing plans and strategies to guarantee children's rights. The rights-approach is well reflected in the four axes and 18 strategic results of the Action Plan: survival, development, protection and participation. The Ministry of Social Development is monitoring intersectoral progress in the actions that each minister committed in the National Plan and, with UNICEF's support, is in the process of defining the indicators and goals for 2019 to 2025.

Social protection system

UNICEF Chile advocated for the consolidation of the social protection system for children with the publication, "Children's Agenda 2018-2021." As a first step of implementation, the Government committed resources to pilot projects of 'local offices for children' in 2019, which will be the first access point for children and families to basic social services. Intersectoral management and coordinated service delivery at local level is among the key components of the local office for children. UNICEF Chile is undertaking a study with Pontifical Catholic University to suggest models at the local level, to ensure delivery of public services to empower families to protect their children, and to facilitate children's development to their fullest potential.

Cross-cutting

Communication: UNICEF visibility and presence as a trusted voice for child rights

UNICEF Chile is an acknowledged independent voice for children, and recognized as a voice for child rights in national and local policies by the new national authorities. UNICEF Chile is often invited to discuss child-related projects in the commissions of both parliamentary chambers, and the mention of UNICEF in 211 national press reports in 2018 further supports this (54 written press; 44 radio; 69 on-line; and 44 television).

UNICEF Chile analysed the coverage and treatment of children and adolescents in Chile's national written media and television news programmes. Only five per cent of the news was

about children and adolescents, principally five themes: education, health, entertainment and shows, violence and accidents. All other important aspects of children's life were left unreported.

In addition, children were portrayed as main actors in 66.2 per cent of these news reports, 33.8 per cent as second actors, complementary to the main person(s) of the news. Regarding how children and adolescents appear in these news reports, 42.7 per cent reported children as victims, 26.4 per cent as neutral, 19.7 per cent as heroes and 10.2 per cent as aggressors/offenders. The majority of the news on children (60.8 per cent) did not have any relation to their socio-economic group. Girls appeared less in the news with 16.6 per cent, compared to boys with 30.9 per cent. The study contributed to research on children and media, generating evidence on the coverage and treatment of children and adolescents in Chile's, analyzing the role that these organizations can play to improve and increase the visibility of children and adolescents, and avoid negative stereotypes, especially regarding adolescents.

Communication work mobilized the Chilean society through social media, resulting in 56,000 Facebook followers, including 3,188 new followers in 2018. Twitter improved in performance, adding 2,526,100 total impressions, and a participation rate of 4.1 per cent. The participation rate (a measure of the effectiveness of digital communication) was 18.5 per cent (in social network statistics, a 10 per cent participation percentage corresponds to the optimal level of results). The interactions (such as likes, shares) totalled 426,456.

With inspiring visual and emotional content and attractive formats, and working with key influencers, UNICEF Chile increased its postings, reaching a total of 2,306,698 people a year. UNICEF Chile website had 643,937 visits, an increase of more than 100,000 visits from 2017, with a monthly average that exceeded 53,000 visits. The sessions reached a total of 362,999 in that period, indicating the attractiveness of the site.

Private sector engagement: Child rights and business

In 2018, UNICEF Chile worked with academia and civil society to determine programme design and results for children. Each partner invested resources such as knowledge, time or technical expertise. UNICEF Chile also supported participation of private companies to promote the rights of children and adolescents, with the child rights and business approach.

UNICEF Chile continued supporting the Government in the implementation of the National Plan of Business and Human Rights, ensuring that the children's rights and business approach was included in the Government initiatives. UNICEF delivered to the Undersecretary for Children the national baseline assessment and defined priority actions to implement in 2019. During the UNICEF Executive Director's visit to Chile, she met with 15 private sector representatives of the 'roundtable of country commitment' to talk about their key role to respect and promote children rights in their operations and shared values.

UNICEF Chile was an influence as a member of the advisory council of the Human Rights and Business Lab "Acción Empresas," an organization that represents 150 largest companies in the country, with other United Nations and Government agencies. In 2018, UNICEF provided technical assistance to 11 companies to incorporate child's rights approach into their business practice.

Private sector fundraising

In-country fundraising had rapid growth in 2018. UNICEF Chile closed the year with a gross

income of in-country fundraising of US\$7.3 million, with 63 per cent growth compared to 2017. The 2018 funds raised surpassed the Private Sector Plan's(2018-2021) target by 14 per cent in Chilean pesos. The expertise in acquiring and retaining 63,000 individual pledge donors raised flexible and unrestricted funds to finance the country programme (22 per cent); contribute to regular resources (37 per cent); the regional thematic funds (7 per cent); and global emergencies (0.3 per cent), as well as to reinvest in local fundraising efforts (34.7 per cent).

During the year, private fundraising and partnerships and communications teams worked together to implement the global campaign, 'roar for change' in Chile, led globally by the United States Fund and Disney/Lucas Films. The success of the Chilean campaign resulted in a \$100,000 soft credit for UNICEF Chile out of a \$1 million global donation.

United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2019-2022

In 2018, UNICEF Chile actively participated in the United Nations Joint Strategic Programming process for the preparation of UNDAF 2019-2022. Through its participation in the United Nations Country Team and technical working groups, UNICEF collaborated to prepare the 'country context analysis' and an analysis of comparative advantages of the United Nations system in Chile; led the 'theory of change' development to identify direct effects; and technically supported the Office of Resident Coordination to prepare the results matrix.

The UNDAF recognizes the importance of monitoring and promoting children's rights. It states the urgent need to reinforce actions for children and adolescents through partnerships and joint work among United Nations agencies. This stand was the result of UNICEF Chile advocacy and technical assistance in the process.

Adjustments to the Country Programme Document 2018-2022

Country Programme Document 2018-2022 adjustments were identified in 2018, regarding implementation of a pilot programme to improve equity and social inclusion in three municipalities. It is crucial that UNICEF is available on the new Government's initiatives that affect children, thus planning and implementation of pilot programmes no longer remains a priority. An opportunity for UNICEF, despite uncertainties of political forces governing the agenda, is that children are at the centre of public policies, and the Government will implement concrete actions at local levels (e.g. the creation 'local offices for children'). UNICEF will provide technical support to the design and implementation of those initiatives, strengthening local inter-sectoral models to create a comprehensive social protection system for children and families.

Part 3: Lessons learned and constraints

Advocacy for children at the centre of the Government agenda

UNICEF advocacy strategy in 2017 was effective when children are placed as one of four Government priorities. UNICEF Chile advocated with all presidential candidates during the presidential campaign in 2017 for the importance of placing children at the centre of the Government agenda. During the face-to-face meetings with each presidential candidate, UNICEF presented a simple and concise publication "Children's Agenda 2018-2025" with 10 key and clear messages, that can be easily transformed into objectives.

As a result, in 2018 the new Government assumed the National Plan of Action for Children and

Adolescents 2018-2025, prepared by the previous administration with UNICEF support since 2016. In June, the National Agreement for Children was submitted with 94 proposals for short, medium and long-term actions for children. With the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a reference, it is a road map with three main axes: universal protection and promotion of the integral development of all children and adolescents; prevent violations of the rights of children and adolescents; and protection and restitution of children and adolescent rights when those rights had been violated.

Advocacy to mitigate risks of regress for inclusive education: Safe Classroom Act

Good intentions to reduce violence in school, to protect children, can have a flip effect sometimes and violate other children's rights to education. A draft law known as Safe Classroom Act was presented at the national congress in September, which expanded school directors' authority to expel students perpetrating serious violence in schools.

This draft law was a response to cases of violence that occurred in public schools, perpetrated by secondary school students. Although the cases were isolated, the media and public opinion reacted strongly, perhaps due to extreme violence of crimes committed by adolescents a few months earlier and the public's general interest in insecurity. There is public support for tough measures to repel criminal actions and violence, and the proximity of the cases to the lives of opinion leaders (as the involved schools were "good schools" located in the capital city of Santiago) affected national interest.

UNICEF Chile analysed the draft law and identified weaknesses. While the draft law is based on limited and unrelated cases of violence, the law would have a national scope for the expulsion of students involved in serious acts of violence in schools: actions to intervene to address the underlying causes of violence were not considered. UNICEF Chile identified that this violates children's rights to education because: due process was not respected for accused students which opens the possibility for a school director to react with the immediate expulsion; and measures to ensure the continuity of education for expelled students were not considered, leaving them at risk of drop-out from the school system.

UNICEF Chile developed an advocacy strategy to revert or mitigate the draft law's contents that violate children's rights to education enshrined in the Convention of the Rights of the Child. The strategy's effectiveness was based on collaboration among communication, education, and protection teams led by the UNICEF Chile Representative.

UNICEF Chile presented its position to the Congress' Senate Education Committee, provided evidence and explained the consequences on children in applying the punitive measure of school expulsion. UNICEF Chile's position was disseminated through an interview with La Tercera, a prestigious written media source in the country.

Although the draft law was approved, UNICEF Chile contributed to revert the contents that would have violated children's rights. As a result, the application of immediate school expulsion was eliminated from the draft law, and replaced by an investigative process respecting a student's right to a defence. The law's legal provisions also includes a psychosocial accompaniment for expelled students and, most importantly, the right to be reinserted in the education system is included as a responsibility of the Ministry of Education.

With this experience, UNICEF Chile learned that worthy intentions to protect a group of children from violence can violate other children's rights. Lessons were learned about the crucial

oversight role that UNICEF played to avoid regression, and the need to maintain a role in providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Education in elaborating the new national policy of safe school environment to ensure a formative and rights-based approach.

Adolescent participation: Concausa

Adolescent participation with Concausa was organized successfully in November 2018, and counted with UNICEF's Executive Director's visit. The Concausa initiative is a partnership among UNICEF Chile, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the non-government organisation América Solidaria, started in 2016. It aims to empower adolescents to reduce child poverty in the region.

The success of Concausa is two-fold. First, the partnership is of a nature that strengthens and complements for a common goal: UNICEF's expertise in the realization of children's rights; the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean's political leadership and knowledge in sustainable development and inequality; and América Solidaria's network and ability to work directly with the adolescents.

Second, Concausa proved that adolescents themselves can achieve Sustainable Development Goals when they are given proper methods and instruments. Concausa translated Sustainable Development Goals into their local context, and linked them directly to adolescents' challenges in everyday life. The adolescents exercised their rights to participation, to express themselves, to take part and have direct influence, by presenting their own initiatives to solve problems, and identified themselves as agents of change to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. Concausa allows adolescents to embrace the Sustainable Development Goals as day-to-day challenges; and they witness the fact that they can make a difference by identifying solutions in a co-creative process, connecting adolescents regionally, and providing a space for adolescents to participate meaningfully as change makers.

After the first three years of successful experiences in Chile, UNICEF's leadership is now handed over to the UNICEF regional office to enhance coverage through the regional network and strengthen the adolescent participation.

Challenges

The new country programme document and Chile's new government

The first year of the Country Programme 2018-2022 coincided with the start of a new Government in Chile in March. The Government has placed children in the centre of their agenda based on UNICEF advocacy efforts during the presidential campaign, and programme priorities identified with the previous administration. Adjustments may be required to ensure results of the country programme. The new administration has new authorities and different political orientation, and UNICEF Chile maintains a constant and open dialogue with the Government to maximize UNICEF Chile's value added in today's reality.

UNICEF Chile's Country Programme 2018-2022 supports pilot programmes to improve equity and social inclusion in three municipalities, to supervise application of central level policy and to identify bottlenecks and barriers in access to services at local level. However, by reviewing the validity of the pilots in light of the current political context, and provided that it is crucial that UNICEF is available for the new Government's initiatives that affect children, it was decided that the planning and implementation of pilot programmes no longer remains a priority.

Outdated legal framework for children

During the last 14 years, UNICEF worked to help Chile have a legal framework for the protection of children and adolescents, aligned with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Despite progress in fulfilling child rights in the country, Chile still has an outdated legal framework for children, from 1967. It does not meet the needs or reality of the country's children today, nor does it hold the standards of a high-income country. It is urgent that Chile strengthen the social protection system for families to protect their children from child rights violations.

In 2018, UNICEF Chile ascertained that political will is insufficient in the approval process of this much-needed updated legal framework for children. A strategy is required to overcome and go beyond ideological differences of political coalitions. Despite political good will, the approval process was interrupted and hampered by changes of Government and conflicting priorities.

The previous four governments have put children and adolescents as a central focus of public policy, making significant changes such as the creation of the sub-system of comprehensive early childhood protection ('Chile crece contigo') in 2009, setting the basis for establishing a comprehensive Chile protection system. However, this remains an unfinished task.

The UNICEF Executive Director visited Chile in November 2018, and transmitted a clear message to key ministers by highlighting the urgent need to update the legal framework for children. She asked the Government to give the category of "urgency" to the set of child-related bills currently in Congress, which together would establish a comprehensive child protection system (if not declared "urgent," a draft law can remain in Congress unattended). The new laws will provide special protection for children whose rights are threatened and violated, based on international standards.

With the new Government in place and a new country programme, UNICEF Chile will continue to promote the full compliance with children's rights and seek new and effective alliances with a wide range of political forces within the Parliament, as well as engaging and convening other relevant actors, such as the private sector, civil society, and children and adolescents themselves.

END/