

Update on the context and situation of children

Key events that shaped the country context in 2019 include: government approval of the National Development Plan (2018-2022), and the *Pact for Colombia, Pact for Equity, as well as the launching of a national Partnership to end violence against children*; local elections; the ongoing implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement despite multiple challenges; an increasingly complex humanitarian situation due to the Venezuela migration; the double impact of some communities affected by violence and natural disasters. During the last quarter of 2019, nation-wide social mobilizations began, led by students, unions, civil society, and indigenous and Afro-descendant organizations, with a broad array of demands, that include the protection of social leaders and human rights defenders.

Colombians went to the polls on 27 October 2019 to elect governors, mayors and local authorities – these were the first local elections since the signing of the peace agreements and with FARC participation as a political party. The high turn-out for these elections was noticeable – with a four per cent increase from 2015. Election day was relatively peaceful, despite the fact that the run-up to the election sparked concerns over violence against potential candidates and social leaders.

Municipal and departmental authorities play a critical role for the success and sustainability of Colombia's peace, development and humanitarian efforts. The government of Colombia, adopted in 2019 the Child Friendly Territories Initiative, to prioritize child rights in the new local development plans.

According to the World Bank, the Venezuela migration is the largest population movement in the region's recent history. Colombia has maintained an "open door" border policy towards the Venezuelan population and has considerably expanded access to employment and the provision of social services to Venezuelan migrants. In 2019, Colombia took a major step in addressing the risk of statelessness by granting Colombian nationality to more than 27,000 children born in the country to Venezuelan parents. This approach was carried out with UNICEF-IOM-UNHCR support.

By the end of 2019, Colombia continued as the country with the largest number of Venezuelan migrants. According to Colombian authorities, there are 1.6 million Venezuelans in the country. An estimated three out of every ten Venezuelan migrants are children. The restrictions on entry, transit and residence by other countries have not stopped the influx into Colombia - there is a noticeable increase of informal border crossing points. Projections from the Regional Migrant and Refugee Plan indicate that there will be 2.4 million Venezuelans in Colombia by the end of 2020. This challenges the already-stretched social services of the country, especially in some regions of the country.

Two factors shape the response to this migration crisis. On one hand, the profile of the migrant population is evolving: women account for 48 per cent of the total and there is an increasing number of families with children. For UNICEF, this implies maintaining a humanitarian and protection response scheme for new arrivals, while simultaneously focusing on system-strengthening and development outcomes to respond to the needs of host communities and those migrants that intent to stay as well as in efforts to promote social cohesion and avoid discrimination and xenophobia.

The emergence of new dynamics of armed violence was the main cause of displacements and confinement in certain territories during 2019. This increases the vulnerability of children and adolescents to different forms of violence. The risks of forced recruitment of adolescents; use of children (including migrants) in illicit economic activities (extortion, illegal crops, trafficking), indicates the need to maintain and reinforce the prevention and protection programmes, including Mine Risk Education and psychosocial support to children. In September, the UN Security Council unanimously renewed the UN Verification Mission mandate in Colombia.

In August 2009, the Colombian Government launched an inter-sectoral and a public-private "National Alliance against all Forms of Violence Against Children." According to official sources, in 2018, 88 per cent of the victims of sexual violence were children. Colombia became a pathfinder country under the Global Partnerships to End Violence Against Children. UNICEF Colombia, with LACRO and HQ support, is supporting the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare in developing the evidence and analysis on violence-related social norms.

In terms of the SDGs - Colombia, one of the largest economies of Latin America, a new OECD member and one of the few with a positive GDP growth (3.6 per cent) – continues to face challenges in overcoming poverty and inequality. After eight years of reducing multi-dimensional poverty that reached 17.8 per cent in 2016, the rate rose to 19.6 per cent in 2018. Based on the National Quality of Life Survey, 26.2 per cent of girls, boys and adolescents live in poor homes. Efforts to tackle poverty were recognized in the 2019 Human Development Index, with position number 90. The report showed the advances in life expectancy, education levels, among other indicators. Colombia, however, remains one of the most unequal countries in the region.

Prevention of child recruitment and use of children continues to be a necessary protection intervention. This sparked public debate following a controversy surrounding an air raid against a dissident group camp of the FARC-EP, which killed several

Colombia

children who had been forcibly recruited.

The political context evolved with national strikes and protests that began on November 21, 2019. People from different backgrounds participated in the protests. The protests were mostly peaceful, although clashes broke out in some cities between protesters and riot police. The government initiated a national dialogue and has begun meeting with members of the national strike committee. These meetings will continue in 2020.

As per government request, the UNICEF Country Programme 2015-2019 was extended for a year to allow full alignment with the upcoming UNSDCF to be completed in 2020. Preliminary discussions highlight three pillars: migration, local development and technical assistance for SDG acceleration.

Major contributions and drivers of results

a) The humanitarian, development and peace inter-linkage in the mixed migration flow from Venezuela

Based on its comparative advantage, territorial presence and ability to provide technical support, UNICEF Colombia prioritized critical departments and municipalities with integrated interventions based on specific vulnerabilities of the child population and host communities in the Arauca, Norte de Santander, La Guajira Nariño, Atlántico, Magdalena, Cesar, Bolivar, Antioquia and Cundinamarca departments, covering 35 municipalities. Of the total US\$29.1 2019 UNICEF HAC, UNICEF Colombia received US\$11.38. The implementation rate reached was 100 per cent, positioning UNICEF as a relevant partner for key donors (PRM, Sweden, Canada, UNICEF Denmark, ECHO and Ireland).

The government of Colombia leads the entire humanitarian response, while the UN regional platform for mixed migration from Venezuela (GIFMM), headed by UNHCR and IOM, coordinates the humanitarian community, including the UN. UNICEF's humanitarian response was built on its experience of working with more than 22 local and community organizations. EPF funds allowed UNICEF to initiate and sustain the response, especially during high-demand periods due to the increase of migrants crossing both border areas (Venezuela-Colombia and Ecuador-Colombia). Despite financial constraints, UNICEF was able to prioritize key interventions with existing resources. As a result, UNICEF surpassed 11 out of 14 HAC targets for 2019, while reaching at least, 64 per cent of the targets in the remaining three indicators.

Due to the protracted nature of this emergency, UNICEF maintained a focus on strengthening institutional capacities at local levels to ensure their readiness and ability to provide integrated quality services to the migrant population and host communities. This included a Diagnosis of the humanitarian response to migrant children in 4 territories, which mapped social assistance and gaps to respond to major humanitarian needs and a resulting proposal for a Comprehensive Child Care Analysis Guide for national coordinating bodies with recommendations to strengthen the co-responsibility in local planning for mayors. UNICEF key areas of interventions in 2019 were: health, nutrition, child protection, WASH, ECD and education. Through "bridge" initiatives tailored to local contexts, and in partnership with local and national governments, UNICEF sought to link emergency interventions with longer-term development workstreams including the integration of migrant population in host communities. Inter-agency coordination was crucial to ensure complementarity in the response and avoid duplication/overlap. UNICEF leading role in education and WASH (as cluster leaders) was strategic for maintaining coherence in the planning and implementation of the HNO/HRP with the Regional Migration Response Plan, considering that both processes continue to work in parallel.

UNICEF response specificity addresses local needs and migrant population profile. For families who wish to remain in Colombia, UNICEF has adapted a previous initiative -- *Somos Paz* ("We are Peace") on community-level capacity development for families and individuals to prevent violence against children. Considering risks of forced recruitment on migrant children and adolescents, UNICEF Colombia also rolled out the *Yo me cuido y cuido a los demás* ("I take care of myself and others") initiative. It combines recruitment prevention and mine risk education for migrant children and families. Over 180,000 children benefitted from programmes to prevent and address violence, abuse and exploitation (including GBV).

With a view to ensure the continuity of education services both from a formal and non-formal perspective and with the goal of enabling migrant children's transition to the education system, UNICEF Colombia implemented the *Circuitos de Aprendizaje* ("Learning Circles") model in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Fundación Escuela Nueva. This model builds on previous experience in delivering education services to displaced population and constitutes a bridge to provide an appropriate learning environment with personalized attention to children and their families on home learning, lifeskills, protection, health and nutrition. While the *Circuitos* are flexible in terms of the enrollment administrative requirements, they are also tied to schools, allowing for a smooth transition to the formal system. In 2019, 1,245 children participated in the formal flexible modality of the 82 UNICEF-supported *Circuitos*.

To provide increased access to health and nutrition services for all migrant population (settling, pendular and in-transit),

Colombia

UNICEF supported “mobile health units” in 7 different locations prioritized by the Ministry of Health. These units work as an expansion of existing services in public hospitals and provide vital health and nutrition services to children under-five, pregnant and lactating mothers, and pregnant girls under 14 and adolescents who also required access to the protection system. Services included: vaccination, growth and development monitoring, pre-natal care, nutritional triage, outpatient treatment for acute malnutrition, micronutrient supplementation of pregnant and lactating women, de-worming, psycho-emotional support, nutrition and breastfeeding counselling and educational activities to prevent illness aimed at patients, families and caregivers. A total of 145,000 women, boys and girls from migrant population and host communities had access to maternal and child health services with a focus on intercultural, gender sensitive and equitable services.

During the reporting period, 9 “learning spaces” for children under five benefitted 74,000 children. In these, children and their families shared good care and child-rearing practices, received nutritional counselling and psycho-social support. “Community-based child-friendly spaces” were designed and implemented specifically for pendular and in-transit migrant families. A total of 88,564 children and 41,332 women participated in activities for preventing risks related to abuse and exploitation, strengthen family resilience and trigger protection mechanisms on gender-based violence, unaccompanied children, malnutrition and high-risk pregnancies. UNICEF Colombia in coordination with UNICEF Venezuela, and other agencies, set up face-to-face information points in formal and non-formal routes to guide migrant families on safety, weather-related recommendations, nutritional considerations and activities to keep children stimulated along the often-long journey.

All actions included WASH as a cross-sectoral priority. Emphasis was placed on hygiene promotion, menstrual hygiene, provision of water access points in settlements and institutions such as schools, transit points, feeding centres. These actions reached over 28,000 people with access to water, benefitting migrants and host communities.

The levels of **psychological trauma** that children have undergone -- during their journey from Venezuela, in their transit across Colombia and when settling into communities which have increasingly become “xenophobic”—underlined the need for psychosocial support and special attention. In response, UNICEF rolled out C4D actions that raised awareness about risks; reduced and tracked rumors among families; promoted and supported community-based activities; and built a more meaningful and relevant humanitarian response through constant feedback from communities (AAP). UNICEF, with DFID support used KOBO to know the real-time opinions of migrant families regarding quality of services, information and the treatment of humanitarian workers. C4D actions reached over 88,000 individuals in 2019 throughout a coordinated work with UNICEF Venezuela.

To address migrant population’s vulnerability to gender-based violence and trafficking, UNICEF partnered with local governments to strengthen the capacity of partners on the implementation of IASC guidelines on the minimum GBV standards in the Norte de Santander, La Guajira and Atlantico departments. A partnership with a La Guajira university and a local foundation, was used to strengthen the capacity of 45 local frontline local workers in prevention and response to sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

The overall emergency effort has raised several challenges and opportunities. On the positive side, UNICEF territorial presence has been key for strengthening the relationship with national and local institutions, while partnerships with NGOs have expanded. This is recognized by government partners and the international community as a UNICEF value added in the migration response. Challenges include the endemic insecurity and resulting lack of access to migrants due to violence and armed conflict in areas where migrants are present (e.g., Catatumbo, Arauca and Tumaco), combined with complex logistics of reaching isolated and sparsely populated areas. Lack of funding for 2020 is a major concern, as both the HAC and the RMRP have been severely underfunded. The latter with only 52 per cent of funds received out of total of US\$727 million for the latter.

As migrants continue to reach and settle in host communities, UNICEF Colombia maintains anti-xenophobia efforts as a constant in every initiative. UNICEF’s strategy involves campaigns, visibility and advocacy for the development and dissemination of positive messages about migrants and against xenophobia—jointly with UNHCR-- through creative audiovisual campaigns (“Somos Panas” and “Super-Panas”), workshops with journalists and newspaper editors, and organized events/publicity. About 21.2 million people have received information through these initiatives.

b) Prevention of statelessness, Children on the Move Protocol & Regional Vaccination Card: a human rights approach to migrants

The **Colombian Government has maintained a conscientiously open border policy toward migrants** and have taken laudable steps in terms of access to services and protection measures to children. In August 2019, the Government of Colombia extended the right to nationality to all children at risk of statelessness born to Venezuelan parents between January 2015 and September 2021. UNICEF-IOM-UNHCR advocacy and technical assistance during the process of design of this administrative measure was recognized by the government and set the basis for a fruitful joint partnership during the roll-out phase.

Colombia

With this decision, Colombia positioned itself both in terms of compliance with the CRC principles of the best interests of children and with its international obligations to prevent statelessness, while providing a path to guarantee the integral protection of children. The total number of children who have obtained Colombian nationality through this measure is 41,094 up to January 26, 2020. Furthermore, a recent measure will seek to enroll migrants into the health system registry.

The nature of migration response has also led to significant cross-border coordination with neighboring countries. For example, "regional vaccination card" was launched in Colombia, as part on a regional governmental initiative with the support of IOM, UNICEF, and UNHCR. This aimed to avoid "re-vaccination" and reduce spread of vaccine-preventable diseases, with an element of efficiency and cost reduction for migrant care, since introducing the same instrument facilitates understanding and acceptance by all countries.

Further, at the Quito V meeting, the Colombian government with technical support from UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, and IPPDH, presented a motion to prepare a Regional Protocol for Children on the Move. This was adopted, and the commitment was included in the Quito V resolution, mandating the creation of a technical governmental task force to work on drafting the Regional Protocol. UNICEF's support to this Protocol and leadership is crucial to ensure that international standards related to the children on the move are included and that the proposal provides a comprehensive policy framework based on international standards for the protection of children, including the six UNICEF's key asks for actions for migrant and refugee children. The link between the humanitarian response, its transition to a more inclusive support, and child rights - embedded in the CCC - have been an important framework for action in the UNICEF response.

c) Promoting the Child right focus and SDGs compliance in the development agenda, both at national and local levels

While in the first months of 2019 the Government was in the final phase of drafting its National Development Plan (NDP), UNICEF Colombia continued the policy advocacy agenda that began during the 2018 election season and promoted a child focus on all social policies that would be reflected in all three main pillars set forth by the Government - equity, enterprise and productivity and legality. Following the Policy Note prepared by UNICEF Colombia and the high-level dialogues with ministers and agency directors, the NDP was approved containing explicit commitments on children's rights, including a) a multidimensional measurement of child poverty and the design of a public policy for its elimination in line with SDG 1, b) updating legal frameworks that allow child marriage, early unions and tolerate physical punishment as a parenting practice in line with SDG 5, c) an official measurement of social spending for children, in line with SDG 10, d) the development of healthy living habits guidelines for school feeding and family support programmes, in line with SDG 3 e) the design of a community-based strategy to promote breastfeeding, in line with SDG 2 f) the reform of the juvenile justice system, in line with SDG 16 and g) the design and implementation of a specific reparations roadmap for children victims of the armed conflict, in line with SDG 16.

UNICEF in 2019 worked closely with the National Planning Department, and Social Prosperity advocating for the proper articulation of social protection and poverty reduction programmes with the new national policy for childhood and adolescence (SDG 1 and 10). The design a of a National Strategy for the elimination of child poverty has already begun. UNICEF is providing technical support both at regional and HQ levels. In addition, this partnership has yielded important results on the evidence generation aspect - including comparative analyses from other countries as well as simulations/projections - for the upcoming official measurement of multidimensional child poverty, in line with SDG 1 targets.

UNICEF advocated for redoubled efforts on the eradication of child marriage and early unions (SDG 5) in partnership with UNWOMEN and UNFPA. UNICEF led the data generation and analysis -- a critical factor for understanding the trends and magnitude of this issue in Colombia. This analysis was shared with key stakeholders, such as members of the National Taskforce on child marriage and early unions, composed by Government entities, civil society, UN agencies and other key stakeholders. A draft law seeking to eliminate all exceptions for marriage under the age of 18 is currently under discussion.

The President of Colombia launched a national partnership (*Alianza*) to end violence against children and adolescents. The *Alianza* is based on the INSPIRE framework and UNICEF Colombia is providing technical support to its main Government lead (ICBF) on generating evidence on social norms conducive to violence, improving access to justice and eliminate impunity of perpetrators, inter-disciplinary coordination at national and local levels and the design and implementation of the National Action Plan.

Considering the high level of decentralization in Colombia, and the fact that 2019 was a local elections year, UNICEF worked on strengthening the capacities of current and new local governments through enhancing accountability mechanisms on child rights, in partnership with the Attorney General's office and the ICBF. UNICEF also was requested to provide technical inputs to the national child-focused accountability guidelines used by the Attorney General's office to evaluate compliance of local authorities on child rights indicators.

Colombia

Through the UNICEF “Child Friendly Territories” strategy, UNICEF provided technical assistance in 22 departments and 252 municipalities to 1,035 local authorities and 18 mayors in the design, implementation and systematization of territorial dialogues on child rights. The dialogues focused on: good governance; evidence-based assessment; monitoring and accountability of actions for guaranteeing the fulfillment child rights in each territory. These included civil society, indigenous people, academia, young people and children, through their involvement in local child rights councils. The participatory approach was a major asset, recognized in the Child Friendly summit held in Cologne. UNICEF Colombia also worked with the local child participation councils, training 500 children and adolescents to monitor the implementation of local accountability mechanisms.

The strategy, under the ICBF’s leadership and in partnership with the Children and Adolescents Council and 16 Government institutions, was taken over by the Government as a key measure to promote child rights at local levels. To ensure a wider dissemination of the strategy, UNICEF assisted local governments in 45 territories in identifying their best practices on violence prevention, social inclusion, child participation, reducing malnutrition and school drop-out rates. Best practices identified and systematized, included: a) the Ibagué municipality’s inter-sectoral actions that resulted in 2,664 children transitioned to primary school; b) the San Juan de Pasto’s effective programme on reducing low birthweight, through increasing exclusive breastfeeding. This initiative resulted in a 43 per cent decrease in maternal mortality between 2016 and 2018.

Support to the implementation of the Peace Process in Colombia is key for children and adolescents. It was also a major aspect for review in the Joint Visit of the Executive Board in May 2019. The Transitional Justice System established in 2019, was a key issue for their review, including Case 007 on forced recruitment and use of children during the armed conflict. UNICEF approach to the implementation of the Peace Process has been in supporting the reintegration of children and providing technical assistance to the *Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparations and Non-Repetition* to promote child participation and mainstream a child sensitive approach into the system’s procedures and actions. Interview guides and protocols for child testimonies were developed and transferred to the Truth Commission to collect primary information for its final report. Dialogues between commissioners, civil society, academia, government authorities and children victims of armed conflict were promoted to understand the impact of armed conflict on children and identify recommendations for non-repetition. Over 200 officials from the Special Jurisdiction for Peace were trained on children rights and protection standards.

d) Private Sector Partnerships setting the foundation for a strong business for results strategy

UNICEF depends on PSFR unrestricted funding for the implementation of its CPD as well as for advocating child rights among the private sector. 2019 was a remarkable year for partnerships with the private sector, in line with the business for results agenda. In order to capitalize on a breastfeeding-friendly enabling environment from the regulatory perspective, UNICEF developed business-friendly materials including training modules on the importance of breastfeeding at home and in the workplace, considering evidence-based advocacy elements such as the return on investment and the recent decline of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months (42 per cent in 2010 to 36 per cent). Materials are being rolled out with major and medium-sized companies, including Banco de Bogotá, Banco de Occidente, CLARO, NEXA and Kimberly Clark, as well as business platforms. On child protection, UNICEF partnered with Millicom-Tigo on the empowerment of adolescents as they work alongside their peers in a training-of-trainings approach focusing on leadership skills on safe use of internet. Finally, seeing the need to connect labour market needs with socio-occupational training models, McKinsey provided UNICEF Colombia with a pro bono analysis on global best practices with potential replicability. Over 6,000 people joined the celebration of the 30 years of the Convention of the Child through UNICEF Colombia’s annual 10K race.

Lessons Learned and Innovations

a) Innovations

UNICEF partnered with *Millicom-Tigo* (mobile/internet provider) to co-create an initiative on online child protection entitled “school of influencers.” The strategy engaged children between 10 and 19 for developing skills geared on safe, responsible and creative internet use. By forming a peer-to-peer network -- “ciberconscius” -- children exchange information on critical thinking, decision making, conflict resolution, innovation and the prevention of online risks including cyberbullying and grooming. The joint UNICEF Colombia-Tigo strategy uses a *learning by doing* methodology and a *safe internet* toolkit. A highlight is the resulting empowerment of adolescents as they work alongside peers in a training-of-trainings approach focusing on leadership skills, reaching 4,436 adolescents (52 per cent girls and 48 per cent boys) in 2019. The adolescents developed materials for a content hub that speaks directly to their peers on safe internet use and leadership. This is part of the regional UNICEF-Millicom partnership. Millicom, acknowledging the success and potential of the strategy, is preparing a second phase in Colombia and a possible 2020 roll-out with UNICEF Bolivia, based on this experience.

UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Education, Fundación Escuela Nueva and Opción Legal, for the adaptation of a

Colombia

flexible and inclusive education model for out-of-school children and adolescents entitled learning circles. The idea was to establish a model that can be further replicated to allow children with educational gaps (including migrant children) to be able to integrate into the formal education through a transitional system of learning and child friendly spaces. It provides guidance in math, language and science according to age and school grade of each child and personalized follow-up for their transition to formal schools. The programme offers psychosocial support and aims to strengthen and restore self-esteem, develop lifeskills, and includes innovative and locally-designed C4D actions to prevent xenophobia and promote a safe and protective environment in school, family and community settings. The circles are flexible regarding administrative entry requirements, responding to the situation and conditions of children. In 2019, the programme reached 1.245 students through 82 learning circles in 4 regions of Colombia. During 2019, the World Bank supported the expansion of three additional learning circles (42 children) in Bogotá, through the provision of pedagogical guidelines and learning materials.

UNICEF also developed three cases of Big/New Data Analysis on education, health and humanitarian response with support from HQ's innovation unit. A key aspect is the use of public and private data that resulted from partnerships with diverse stakeholders (e. g. private companies, academia and government agencies). In the first case, the country has a comprehensive mapping of all schools in Colombia with real-time needs; in the second, health stakeholders are developing state of the art models to predict the spread of vector-borne diseases; and models to depict demographic movements in natural disasters.

b) Lessons Learned: humanitarian-development continuum.

UNICEF Colombia continued with emergency response initiatives related to the internal conflict as well as in relation to the migration flows. The context of a protracted emergency with an unknown timeframe, ever-changing and unpredictable dynamics point to the need for developing an integrated response going beyond immediate life-saving interventions. For doing so, UNICEF Colombia has prioritized strategic initiatives at the local level that are potentially sustainable through the strengthening of institutional capacity and partnerships with local Governments.

To respond to the "triple affectation" of armed conflict, migration flows and natural disasters, UNICEF Colombia kept its existing programmatic structure, considering it a critical factor for the success in the design, implementation and sustainability of all emergency-related actions. Having the same team work on both emergency and development allowed the office to build on its technical expertise and long-standing partnerships with national and local Governments and enabled a smooth dialogue with partners in alignment with national priorities, and resilience capacity development. This also allowed for a swift and fit-for-purpose response to an evolving situation in the field, with greatly benefited for an enhanced inter-agency coordination, in many cases including operational arrangements such as the use of shared premises.

UNICEF Colombia also grew in staff size mainly through the recruitment of 29 UN Volunteers (junior and senior), based mostly in the field in different areas of the emergency response and coordinate both at field and technical level for an informed, relevant and efficient implementation. The field teams, many with outposted staff and others with a strengthened human resources structure, have focused on capacity strengthening of local government and civil society/NGO partners, with the goal of ensuring sustainability.

This experience points to the need for continuous field presence to ensure the relevance of the response beyond the emergency, to inform the development side of the programme through enhanced coordination between the field and central offices. It also reinforces the importance of maintaining existing and proven coordination mechanisms at the local level that build on local governments response capacity.

c) Lesson Learned: Local/field-based implementing partners

The emergency response to the migration flow called for an increased field presence in remote and hard-to-reach areas where Government presence has been historically limited. It also called for strong linkages with the development workstreams. To achieve this, UNICEF Colombia sought to work with a wider array of partners with a solid track record who also help ensure relevance of interventions, as this enables a smooth transition to longer-term development work.

UNICEF Colombia worked with 34 implementing partners, reaching 200,000 people through emergency response and 125,000 in its development programme in 20 departments. Out of the total, 25 are Colombian organizations and 11 are community-based. With the latter, UNICEF developed capacity building initiatives on administrative and financial processes, to strengthen local teams and networks, allowing for the consolidation and enhancement of:

- Cultural relevance: initiatives are adapted and implemented by teams that live in the communities and understand local dynamics and perspectives.

Country Office Annual Report 2019

Colombia



-
- Sustainability: these organizations and local governments will continue to work at the local level.
 - Legitimacy within the communities: teams working on the ground are recognized role models.
 - Recognition of communities as active agents and leaders in local communities.