

Colombia

Executive Summary

Colombia is on target to meet many of its national Millennium Development Goals in such areas as gross enrolment in primary education, births delivered in a health facility, high immunisation coverage, decrease in national infant mortality rate and low prevalence of HIV. However, national averages conceal persistent inequalities within and amongst regions. For instance, evidence shows that the highest rates of maternal mortality occurred in three of the five regions with the highest rural, indigenous and Afro-descendant populations: Caribbean, Pacific and Orinoquía. According to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (2012) in Chocó, the maternal mortality rate was 224.61 per 100,000 live births, more than three times the national average (65.89). Sustained growth, along with expanded social protection programmes, has contributed to decreased income poverty, from 49.7 (2002) to 30.6 per cent (2013); the extreme poverty rate fell from 17.7 to 9.1 per cent in the same period. The country has also made great efforts to reduce income inequality, measured by Gini coefficient, from 0.56 in 2010 to 0.53 in 2013. Nevertheless, gaps remain in the distribution of wealth, and social mobility is still affected by gender, ethnicity, age, geographical location and other factors.

Moreover, violence still hinders the full guarantee of children's rights, and official figures reflect the strong impact of the internal armed conflict on children. According to official sources, as of November of 2014, 7,028,776 people were formally registered as victims, of whom 2,182,707 are boys, girls and adolescents. Specifically, they are affected by Anti-Personnel Landmines (APL), Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs); recruitment by illegal armed groups; conflict-related sexual violence; internal displacement; and the deprivation of humanitarian assistance. Although it is impossible to know with any certainty how many children are currently involved in armed groups, between 1999 and 2013, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) assisted 5,417 children and adolescents who had been separated from illegal armed groups (28 per cent girls, 72 per cent boys). This fact was also highlighted by the 2014 Report of the Secretary General of the United Nations on children and armed conflict.

During 2014, with the aim of contributing to reducing inequities, UNICEF Colombia gave priority to strengthening the capacity of health system providers for the indigenous communities of La Guajira Department (northeast). UNICEF Colombia helped reduce infant mortality at the municipal level through the formulation and implementation of improvement plans and a process of constant training in clinical and management subjects. This process in La Guajira took place in 11 indigenous communities in rural areas of the municipality of Manaure. The initiative involved the active participation of 224 families, 372 children under the age of seven, 40 indigenous authorities and 11 promoters. Their engagement achieved a dramatic reduction of infant deaths: from 13 children in 2012 to two in 2013 and just one in 2014. Moreover, acute malnutrition decreased from 5.4 per cent to 1.4 per cent among children under the age of five. The strengthening of institutional actors led to an increase in birth registrations by 35 per cent and served to ensure that the absolute number of maternal deaths remained constant at five per year.

At the policy level, the 'right-to-education index' was constructed with the Ministry of Education and the Commitment to Education for All alliance, in which civil society organisations (CSOs), academics and UNICEF participate. Its added value was the organisation of existing information on education in the country into the categories of accessibility, availability, acceptability and adaptability. The right-to-education index was launched in Colombia on 10 December 2014, opening a space for reflection and dialogue about what guaranteeing the right means in terms of public policy. The index will be improved based on the results of national and regional debate. It will be updated every two years.

The establishment of strategic partnerships continued to be one of the key strategies of the Country Programme. In particular, partnership between UNICEF Colombia and the National Centre for Historical Memory allowed for a significant improvement in the implementation of the transitional justice system. This partnership triggered national-level discussion among state institutions and civil society organisations about the critical impact of the internal armed conflict on children and adolescents, and promoted reflections on specific measures for children and adolescents to be taken into account in the process of symbolic reparation to victims.

Humanitarian Assistance

In 2014 UNICEF Colombia carried out short-term humanitarian interventions with partners in different contexts where complex emergency conditions prevail. Some of the worst-hit areas suffered from multiple emergencies, such as drought and floods combined with sudden massive human displacement because of the internal armed conflict, increasing the level of human suffering. This was particularly the case of Bajo Baudó in Chocó Department (Pacific Coast), the dangerous Arauquita area of Arauca (along the border with Venezuela), the conflict-prone regions of Nariño and Putumayo (South Pacific coast and border with Ecuador), and the drought-affected areas of La Guajira (on the north-eastern Caribbean Coast).

With financing from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), UNICEF and local NGOs responded to urgent humanitarian needs in four different sectors: nutrition, water and sanitation, hygiene education and child protection. In Chocó, Nariño and the Meta-Guaviare border region – areas of extreme insecurity or sudden displacement – nutritional interventions involved assessment to establish nutritional baselines, distribution of critical relief supplies to children, pregnant and lactating women and implementation of emergency feeding programmes (therapeutic and supplemental) to acutely malnourished and at-risk children, reaching 12,116 vulnerable persons in those three departments. In the midst of these relief activities, emergency training in health, nutrition and gender-sensitive service delivery was provided to community leaders, health promoters and mobile units. In selected communities of Arauca and Chocó Departments, following a rapid assessment of water and sanitation availability and hygiene practices UNICEF, as WASH cluster lead and along with partners, provided storage tanks, filters, rain collection equipment and water-quality control chemicals and supplies to benefit 10,475 people, including 4,000 children. In addition, school water supply systems were rehabilitated and hygiene promotion activities carried out with beneficiary communities.

In the sectors of education and protection, CERF funding permitted the distribution of education kits, recreational kits, school-in-a-box and other pedagogical support for 9,610 children, also benefitting teachers and affected schools in Chocó, where armed confrontations and displacement have frequently interrupted educational activities. Some small-scale infrastructure improvements and capacity building of teacher were undertaken simultaneously. Protection interventions involved preventing recruitment of children into the armed conflict through the "strengthening of protective environments" strategy, mine risk education in communities and

schools, as well as direct support to mine victims in areas most affected by the armed conflict and/or contaminated by explosive remnants of war. Mine risk education was provided to 21,645 children and adolescents, and support to 97 mine accident survivors was undertaken in Chocó, Antioquia, Tolima, Meta, Guaviare, Caquetá, Norte de Santander, Arauca, Córdoba, Cauca and Putumayo. UNICEF and its partners carried out activities to strengthen protective environments—including basic skills, sports/arts/culture and the “Return to Happiness” psycho-social support programme—in Putumayo, Nariño, Córdoba and peri-urban slum areas outside of Bogotá. The combined impact of these humanitarian interventions in education and protection was to provide resources and knowledge to 50,499 children, their families, teachers and communities that will help them to avoid some of the worst impacts of the long-standing conflict; in particular, association with armed actors and accidents resulting from landmines, unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices on the other.

Early in 2014, the El Niño Oscillation South phenomenon provoked critical conditions of drought across a broad swath of the northern part of the country, affecting some 5 million persons in nine departments, from Antioquia to La Guajira. Jointly with other humanitarian actors, UNICEF responded to humanitarian needs by freeing up resources to support acute health, nutrition and WASH needs, specifically in nine of the most directly impacted municipalities of La Guajira. Activities included training of hospital staff to carry out community-level activities; re-establishment of community nutritional monitoring with the Secretary of Health, including both evaluation and treatment of children; and the provision of water and sanitation through emergency water tanks and the organisation of community-level cleaning and trash collection. In all, 1,637 families benefitted directly, including 575 pregnant and lactating mothers, and 1,984 children, of whom 116 (4.1 per cent) were diagnosed with acute malnutrition.

Equity Case Study

Reduction and prevention of child mortality in indigenous communities

In Colombia there are approximately 4.3 million children under five years of age. Of these, over 1 million have access to comprehensive care schemes; four years ago, only 566,000 had such access. Colombia has thus achieved significant progress in guaranteeing a better quality of life for young children. The country passed from a limited sectoral supply to a comprehensive approach for care that brings together policies, programmes, projects and basic social services for a growing number of children under five years of age. Nonetheless, challenges persist.

Children in the worst situations of exclusion and vulnerability still lack quality basic social services for their adequate development. In areas with larger rural or ethnic populations, maternal and infant mortality are systematically higher than the national average. Available data for 2012 from the National Ministry of Health and Social Protection indicate that maternal mortality per 100,000 live births was higher in regions with a large concentration of indigenous and Afro-Colombian population, such as Chocó (224.61), Vichada (188.32), La Guajira (135.81) and Cauca (113.14), compared with the national average of 69.89. From 2005 to 2012, infant mortality rates in scattered rural areas remained from 28 per cent to 49 per cent higher than in urban centres. Of every 100 deaths, 18 were among indigenous and Afro-Colombian children. In 2011 the departments with the highest rates of infant mortality per 1,000 live births were, again, Amazonas (46.44), Chocó (42.69), Guaviare (35.05) and La Guajira (32.05), compared with a national average of 17.78. Maternal and infant mortality in rural areas and among the indigenous and Afro-Colombian population is largely explained by the poor availability of basic services, the scarcity among this population of financial resources for gaining access to services, and inappropriate childbearing practices within families and communities.

With the aim of contributing to reducing inequities, UNICEF Colombia gave priority to strengthening the capacity of the decentralised agents of the general social security health system and of indigenous communities in La Guajira. UNICEF Colombia helped to reduce maternal mortality in eight municipalities through the formulation and implementation of improvement plans and a process of constant training in clinical and management subjects. The absolute number of maternal deaths remained constant at five per year.

The work carried out in La Guajira was the third phase of UNICEF's process (2012 to 2014) of institutional and community support to 11 communities in the municipality of Manaure to guarantee comprehensive and intercultural care for Wayuu during early childhood. The initiative implied the active participation of 224 families, 372 children under the age of seven, 40 indigenous authorities and 11 health promoters. Their involvement achieved a dramatic reduction in infant deaths – from 13 children in 2012 to two in 2013 and just one in 2014. Moreover, acute malnutrition decreased from 5.4 per cent to 1.4 per cent among children under the age of five. The strengthening of institutional actors also increased birth registration by 35 per cent. The strategy was considered successful thanks to: (1) UNICEF's field presence in Colombia; (2) strong community participation; (3) systematic measurement and monitoring; (4) effective adaptation of training materials and methodologies for indigenous leaders, communities and families; and (5) UNICEF's role as facilitator role to improve social dialogue and decision-making between the state and indigenous authorities around sensitive child survival issues. The initiative was particularly innovative because of the creation and implementation of a community-based monitoring system called Ayaawataa ("seeing or recognising oneself," in the Wayuunaiki language). Its principal achievement was making children and their rights visible in the family and the community, given that ancestral cultural practices did not completely favour such recognition

Effective inclusion of out-of-school children

UNICEF Colombia worked with the Ministry of Education (MEN) to increase the coverage and effectiveness of the national "The School Seeks the Child" programme (EBN), aimed at identifying children and adolescents who are out of school or at high risk of dropping out, and guaranteeing their right to quality education. The programme focused on municipalities with the lowest rates of education coverage that coincide with the areas with highest levels of poverty and are most affected by the internal armed conflict. The EBN programme is being implemented by 14 secretariats of education (Putumayo, Guainía, Vaupés, Caquetá, Córdoba, Chocó, Cartagena, Cauca, Bolívar, Santa Marta, Medellín, Buenaventura, Nariño and Norte de Santander). The strategy was carried out both in rural and marginal urban areas, and was able to demonstrate that despite Colombia's efforts to advance toward universal education, barriers still exist in these territories that hinder entry and lead to high dropout rates, especially in upper secondary school.

During 2014, UNICEF Colombia and MEN identified 10,327 children and adolescents outside the education system in the rural areas of the departments of Nariño, Córdoba, Putumayo and Norte de Santander. Half of them (53 per cent) are already enrolled in the educational system. Thirty-nine per cent are still in the process of entering the system while they complete adaptation measures to avoid becoming chronic drop-outs. Secretariats of education and schools are still looking for resources to guarantee attention to the new enrollees. The EBN programme demonstrated visible impact in raising education coverage indicators in the prioritised communities, because of its focus on:

- Strengthening the technical and functional capacities of local secretariats of education to carry out cost-efficient census of out-of-school children

- Identifying (in a participatory way) the specific bottlenecks that exist in the supply and the demand side of the education system, including adaptations to the needs of excluded populations and changed perceptions of parents about the value of education
- Providing teachers, families and parents with specific tools and procedures to attend and take care of children and adolescents adapting to the new challenges posed by entering and staying in school
- Monitoring student retention, as well as removing obstacles for guaranteeing quality education to socially excluded communities.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

Acronyms

APL/UXO/IED – Antipersonnel mines/ unexploded ordnance/Improvised explosive devices
 CCC – Core Commitments for Children
 CERF – Central Emergency Response Fund
 CMT – Country Management Team
 CRB – Central Review Body
 CRC - Contract Review Committee
 EBN – Escuela Busca al Niño (The School Seeks the Child)
 ECOPETROL – Colombian oil company
 EiE – Education in Emergencies
 FARC-EP – Armed Forces of Colombia - People’s Army
 HACT– Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers
 HIV – Human immunodeficiency virus
 HRBA – Human rights-based approach
 ICBF – National Institute of Family Welfare
 ICT – Information, technology and communications
 IPSAS – International Public Sector Accounting Standards
 JCC – Joint Consultative Committee
 LLC – Local Learning Committee
 MEN – Ministry of Education
 MOSS - Minimum operational security standards
 NDP - National Development Plan
 NGO – Non-governmental organisation
 OR – Other resources
 PCARC - Project Cooperation Agreement Review Committee
 PEGR – Planes Escolares de Gestión del Riesgo
 PFP - Private Fundraising and Partnerships
 PHD – PHD Network Colombia (creative media design firm)
 PUBLIK - PUBLIK Emociones e Interactividad (communication technology firm)
 SISPRO – Sistema Integral de información de la Protección Social
 TBWA – TBWA Colombia (communications publicity agency)
 UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Fund
 UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
 WASH – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Capacity Development

The National Board for Education in Emergencies coordinates emergency preparedness, risk management and emergency response in the education sector. This scenario involves national institutions, NGOs and international cooperation agencies. In past years, the Board has supported the Ministry of Education and decentralised secretariats of education in designing

and implementing Ministerial Directives 12 and 16, which address how to proceed during emergencies in schools. In 2014, the Board concentrated on building and implementing a strategy to strengthen the functional and technical capacities of educational institutions and of administrators, teachers and school communities in designing and executing School Risk Management Plans. The MEN, with technical assistance from the Board and leadership by UNICEF, issued technical and methodological guidelines for:

- (a) risk assessment of schools, including the identification of threats, vulnerabilities and capabilities of local actors to cope with emergencies, and
- (b) the implementation of action plans related to preparedness, response and early recovery in the face of natural or man-made emergencies.

During 2014, 376 educational institutions in areas of the country with the highest prevalence of emergencies (the Caribbean and Pacific areas, Orinoquia and Amazonia) designed their plans in a participatory manner, covering both natural disasters and complex emergencies. Administrators, teachers, students and other members of the education community acquired knowledge and competencies for organising, preparing and responding by themselves to both types of emergencies. UNICEF Colombia also supported the MEN and local secretariats of education to replicate these emergency assessment, planning and response processes in all other schools that were not focused on initially.

This capacity strengthening included monitoring the prioritised secretariats of education by the Board and the Ministry, measuring both the level of implementation of technical assistance to the selected schools and educational entities and improvements in their knowledge and capacity.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

In 2014 three events were particularly important within the political realm: A presidential election, formulation of the new National Development Plan for 2014-2018, and the on-going peace talks in Havana. These processes affected how priorities related to children and adolescents were defined and acted upon at the national and sub-national levels. UNICEF Colombia supported national and local partnerships so that children and adolescents' rights could be made visible and given consideration in key public dialogues and decision-making processes. Specific examples included:

- Through the 'Vote por la niñez' ('Vote for Children') strategy, in partnership with the national Alliance for Colombian Children, technical teams of political parties, presidential candidates, media corporations and voters increased their knowledge on issues faced by children and adolescents and recognised the degree to which these issues figured within their political campaigns. This was accomplished through media products and info-graphics highlighting the 10 most pressing situations experienced by children and adolescents in Colombia. Questionnaires were also given to presidential candidates when participating in major debates, and a web/cell application was developed for getting to know the candidates, referencing their governance proposals regarding children's rights and permitting direct interaction with voters interested in these issues.
- UNICEF Colombia supported, both technically and financially, the second national meeting of mayors for children, adolescents and young people: 'New generations, Territories and Peace'. Nearly 200 mayors from the most vulnerable municipalities of the country agreed on nine main areas to contribute to peace-building at the local level, with the involvement of both public and

private stakeholders.

- Along with more than 1,700 representatives of public and private organisations from all 32 departments and the Capital District of the country, UNICEF Colombia advocated for the adequate inclusion of analysis, goals strategies and accountabilities around the guarantee of children`s rights within the National Development Plan.

- UNICEF Colombia led the process of strengthening civil society participation in public policies for children and adolescents, involving more than 12,000 people – 8,286 children and 4,383 adults – in both urban and rural areas of the municipalities prioritised by UNICEF.

Partnerships

At the national level, the partnership between UNICEF Colombia and the National Centre for Historical Memory allowed for two improvements in the implementation of the transitional justice system. First, this partnership triggered national-level discussion among state institutions and civil society organisations on the grave impact of the internal armed conflict on children and adolescents – especially with regard to recruitment, sexual violence and injury by antipersonnel mines. Second, the partnership fostered a reflection on specific measures for children and adolescents to be taken into account in the processes of symbolic reparation to victims, led by the National Centre.

At the sub-national level, two particular processes should be highlighted:

i) The public-private partnership among authorities from the municipalities of Santander de Quilichao and Buenos Aires (Pacific region), Plan Foundation in Colombia, Plan International (Spain), the Corona Foundation and UNICEF Colombia executed the regional ‘Environmental Protection of Schools’ project. With leadership by UNICEF Colombia, this initiative went from an initial budget of US\$160,000 to a shared fund of US\$585,000, expanding coverage to 30 per cent of all rural educational institutions in the prioritised municipalities. By the end of 2014, a total of 2,695 children and adolescents enjoyed improved environmental and sanitation infrastructure and could apply updated relevant knowledge on hygiene and sanitation. Compared to the initial baseline measurement, the knowledge and practices of all participants in the initiative improved, on average, by 80 per cent. In 2015 direct work with MEN will begin to evaluate potential replication of the tools and strategies of this initiative at other rural schools, under the national framework of the Ministry’s programme for healthy lifestyles for children and adolescents in school.

ii) UNICEF Colombia designed a joint agenda for sub-national work focusing on corporate social responsibility with extractive companies. The agenda is particularly innovative for the country, given its focus on preventing commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in energy and mining areas.

External Communication and Public Advocacy

UNICEF’s communication strategy aimed at placing the rights of marginalised children at the centre of social and political agendas and positioning UNICEF to support advocacy and fundraising. The campaign ‘Invest in the Power of Children’ was designed to motivate donations as an investment. The ‘Learn from Children: Know Their Rights’ campaign was created for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). In the latter campaign several initiatives were carried out, in which children from different areas of the country were the protagonists, keeping a special emphasis on gender equality: a) the

Conversations on the Rights of the Child and Peacebuilding, which was part of the global initiative Activate Talks; b) the launch of the 'RIGHTS' mini-site; c) presentation of the 'Rights and Gift' videos, and d) the 'My Rights' national video contest for children.

UNICEF Colombia also supported the Bogotá Film Festival and gave an award to the best film with a children's perspective. It actively promoted the Child Rights Manual, in partnership with the European Union. A campaign for mobilisation against gender-based violence was held on the Day of the Girl Child. UNICEF Colombia acted as lead agency, both financially and technically, for the UN peace-building campaign 'Breathe peace,' funded by the Peace Building Fund. As a joint Private Fundraising and Partnerships (PFP)/Communications activity, UNICEF's sixth annual 10-kilometre race gathered a very respectable 6,500 runners in Bogota.

UNICEF brand and messages on child rights were seen 363 million times on traditional and digital media, with an advertising value equivalent to US\$13.4 million. Innovations in digital material included the addition of Instagram and generating contacts for fundraising. Twitter and Facebook growth measured 52 and 398 per cent, respectively. Site visits grew by 461 per cent, the website entry bounce-back rate decreased to 12 per cent, and the most visited section was the RIGHTS mini-site. All this was achieved with the support of partner companies such as TBWA Colombia, Publik, PHD and Netbangers. Eleven celebrities, including world-renowned cyclist Nairo Quintana, added to the visibility of UNICEF priorities.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

UNICEF Colombia, in partnership with the Presidential Agency for Cooperation, fostered two processes of South-South cooperation between the Colombian Government, Honduras and Mexico; both were related to comprehensive attention to early childhood. The contribution by UNICEF Colombia was made possible thanks to the operational support of the corresponding UNICEF offices in the two countries that requested the cooperation. UNICEF Colombia fostered the exchange in the field of knowledge, experiences and good practices of the Colombian State in the execution of the national early childhood development (ECD) strategy 'De cero a siempre' ('From Zero to Always'). UNICEF Colombia benefitted from its leadership and influence in the current national alliance – bringing together more than 20 institutions, foundations and civil society organisations for implementation of this strategy – to convene all necessary resources and stakeholders for the exchange to take place.

Teams from the visiting governments learned from the Office of the Presidential Advisor for Early Childhood about the progress of the strategy, particularly the design of inter-sectoral links for integral attention to children under five years of age; implementation of the rights and wellbeing perspective; and the execution of cost-efficient mechanisms for the education and training of education agents. Field visits also permitted identification of the concrete mechanisms for supporting families, application of the policy at the local level and strengthening of the competencies of institutional education agents, as well as the strategies that promote the integral development of young children.

Colombia, Honduras and Mexico agreed to formalise corresponding bilateral South-South cooperation agreements, as they found that the Colombian experience contributed important elements for the construction of public policy for young children, the roadmap for holistic care and the model of inter-institutional action.

Two additional processes of horizontal cooperation were planned during 2014 for implementation in 2015: one between ministries of education from Morocco and Colombia,

regarding implementation of the multi-grade model 'Escuela Nueva'; the other, between the Planning Secretary of Ecuador and the National Planning Department of Colombia, on the subject of monitoring and evaluation of national development plans.

Identification Promotion of Innovation

New technologies in ethno-education projects

In 2014 UNICEF Colombia worked with the Secretariat of Education of Amazonas to draft and implement Community Education Projects in six indigenous communities of the region. Intercultural curricula and didactic tools were constructed with the participation of traditional authorities, indigenous organisations, teachers, children and adolescents and other members of the education communities. These tools served to improve learning and social skills of indigenous students at both primary and secondary levels. During execution of the process the indigenous schools incorporated the use of new technologies for teaching of the native language (Ticuna) and Spanish, including the design of interactive software applications for learning ethno-mathematics, the linking of ancestral traditional medical lore to the areas of chemistry, biology and science, and use of the indigenous worldview in teaching literature and written language. This experience was formally recognised by Departmental education authorities in Amazonas as an innovative experience that needs to be replicated in other indigenous communities of the region, and even throughout the country.

Innovations for the construction of peace with adolescents

In line with the current trend towards peace-building at the subnational level, UNICEF Colombia supported the Government to develop innovative platforms, methodologies and content for adolescents and young people to acquire relevant knowledge and create local peace initiatives. The 'Paz a Tiempo' ('Peace in Time') virtual diploma course stands out as a successful innovation. This on-line course grew out of an alliance among UNICEF, UNFPA, the Presidency's Directorate of the National Youth System and Santo Tomas University. Over 9,000 individuals registered from all the departments of the country, and 4,000 adolescents and young people were selected and distributed into 50 virtual classrooms. They learned virtually under the guidance of tutors and experts in the subjects of the curriculum, a unique experience in Colombia. A total of 3,145 adolescents and young people completed the training process and were certified as peace builders. Through the course, they developed more than 900 peace-building proposals, born from their own experiences, demonstrating the strategic role of adolescents in creating peaceful solutions to conflicts in their immediate environments.

Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages

UNICEF Colombia supported inter-sectorial work in four structures:

i) The National Family Welfare System (ICBF) is composed of more than 20 institutions and agencies at the national and sub-national levels. Within this system, UNICEF Colombia co-led the formulation of the pillars of the forthcoming National Development Plan (NDP), by: (a) facilitating technical and methodological guidance to Government officials, private sector representatives, academic and cooperation delegates in outlining the document's contributions to the pillars of the 2014-2018 NDP with Regard to Children, Adolescents and Young People; and (b) holding local consultations to collect inputs to the NDP, in coordination with the 'Facts and Rights' strategy. UNICEF coordinated the participation of more than 1,700 people from all departments of the country.

ii) The inter-sectoral Commission for Promoting and Guaranteeing Sexual and Reproductive Rights, involving 16 Government institutions. Support was provided on: monitoring and evaluation (the bulletin and info-graphic for monitoring the indicators of the national policy document were published); local provision of sexual and reproductive rights services; and strengthening the capacity of adolescents for building life projects in four municipalities of the country.

iii) The inter-sectoral Commission for the Prevention of Recruitment of Children and Adolescents and Sexual Violence, in the context of the armed conflict. UNICEF Colombia supported the commission to identify and measure the psycho-social effects of the conflict on children and adolescents and to characterise demobilised boys and girls before, during and after their recruitment by armed groups. This evidence provided new insights for the commission's discussion on national and subnational measures to protect children from recruitment and to reintegrate them successfully into their families and communities when they are identified as victims.

iv) The national inter-sectoral Commission for Early Childhood is composed of nine government entities, 14 private sector foundations, two international NGOs and two cooperation agencies. This commission leads all programming related to the national early childhood development strategy, *De Cero a Siempre* (From Zero to Always). UNICEF Colombia was part of a joint technical and financial effort to support the design and implementation, at national and sub-national levels, of all components of the strategy.

Service Delivery

UNICEF Colombia's service delivery focused on its emergency response activities, since most of its development work involves capacity development, knowledge creation, advocacy and partnerships. During 2014 UNICEF Colombia targeted especially vulnerable communities in nine departments, providing supplies, services and technical assistance in four different sectors. As cluster lead for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), UNICEF and its partners provided safe drinking water, proper management of excreta and solid waste systems to benefit 10,475 people (including 4,000 children) in schools and rural households, along with hygiene promotion. UNICEF also helped the National Ministry of Education to strengthen local contingency plans, supported schools as protective spaces; provided furniture, school safety kits and learning materials for 9,610 boys, girls and adolescents; and rehabilitated learning spaces.

In nutrition, through partners UNICEF provided ready-to-use therapeutic food, micronutrients and promotion of breastfeeding for 12,116 of the most vulnerable indigenous children and mothers in three departments. UNICEF Colombia also supported the National Institute of Family Welfare to develop and implement the protocol for community-based management of acute malnutrition in 17 of 32 departments. In the area of child protection, UNICEF and partner NGOs delivered mine risk education to 21,645 children and adolescents, and provided 97 mine survivors (18 boys, seven girls)– victims of APL/UXO/IED – with transportation, food and lodging while on route to receive material, medical and psychosocial assistance through the official system. UNICEF Colombia also promoted the use of protective environments to prevent recruitment of children, through the use of sports, culture and life skills activities. For the "Return to Happiness" project, which integrates education and protection to provide psychosocial support in the school environment, UNICEF distributed 40 psychosocial support backpacks to adolescents for use with younger children. A total of 50,499 children participated in a variety of

protection programmes offered, including Golombiao (The Game of Peace), Return to Happiness (psychosocial peer support), and Basic Skills, among others.

Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

In 2014 UNICEF Colombia strengthened its programmatic actions to achieve more significant changes in the capacity of duty-bearers as well as right-holders, especially boys and girls from 12-to-18 years of age, to make the principles of non-discrimination and active participation a reality, both of which are integral parts of the human rights based approach (HRBA). UNICEF Colombia linked its comprehensive adolescent development strategy with its local model initiatives to prevent pregnancy and guarantee sexual and reproductive rights, as well as with the actions of Golombiao: The Game of Peace and the prevention of violence. In La Guajira and Chocó, UNICEF Colombia transferred these coordinated strategies to local youth organisations (Corporación Chocó Joven and Corporación Genera Futuro), favouring their local adaptation.

Altogether, this harmonisation allowed for the: (i) allocation of municipal financial and technical resources to guarantee inclusive attention to adolescents, and (ii) establishment of different roadmaps for accessing basic social services in health, justice, education, culture and protection. In La Guajira, roadmaps were even adapted to an intercultural perspective, so that adolescents belonging to indigenous communities also saw their interests met in the supply of basic social services. This included the installation of social platforms for adolescents and young people to ensure their constant voice and influence in design, execution and accountability of local social policies. The articulation of this strategy at the national level, with the Colombia Joven Presidential Programme and the ICBF's Directorate for Adolescents, continues to be a challenge.

UNICEF Colombia, in partnership with the ICBF Directorate of the National Youth System of the Presidency, also carried out the initiative 'Paz a la Joven' ('Peace youth-style'), which sensitises adolescents and young people in Colombia regarding peace-building and how they can achieve their own visions and proposals as a starting point. To date, 569 adolescents and young people have developed scenarios of peace and suggested how these scenarios link to their daily lives. A network of 'Pazadores' (loosely translated, 'peacemakers') was created to disseminate and replicate these experiences.

Gender Mainstreaming and Equality

In 2014, with support from the Regional Office, UNICEF Colombia carried out a gender review, examining the level of alignment of the Country Programme with UNICEF's Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan. It simultaneously completed an external evaluation of its cooperation programmes with Sweden and Canada. Both analyses showed that gender is applied unevenly across the programme. Lessons learned from these reviews served to strengthen gender mainstreaming.

UNICEF Colombia strengthened the capacity of stakeholders in prioritised geographic departments to prevent and develop a comprehensive response to sexual violence, including access to justice. The emphasis on an intercultural approach to protecting indigenous girls and adolescent women in La Guajira and Cauca against sexual violence – actively involving parents in child-care and fostering women's empowerment – stands out.

UNICEF Colombia helped to improve the way in which cases of sexual violence against girls and adolescents are documented in the country. It also advocated for a more integrated and effective response to this form of violence, in accordance with UN Resolution 1612 of the

Security Council. In addition, UNICEF Colombia supported the National Centre for Historical Memory in development of a national report, required by Law 1719, relating to access to justice by victims of sexual violence, especially in the context of the armed conflict. UNICEF worked to ensure the inclusion of children's perspectives in the report, given the large numbers of girls and adolescents who are victims of sexual violence in the context of the armed conflict. UNICEF Colombia also participated actively in the Board on Gender convened by international cooperation agencies in Colombia.

UNICEF expanded the strategy for social mobilisation against commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the context of tourism. Originally implemented in Cartagena (Caribbean region), the strategy was extended to other tourism destinations, including Medellin (north-central) and Leticia (southeast). In the Amazon region, UNICEF Colombia facilitated an agreement between municipalities from Brazil, Peru and Colombia to link strategies for the prevention of and response to this form of exploitation, including trafficking of children and adolescents.

Environmental Sustainability

Actions on sustainability of the environment and climate change were part of a comprehensive approach that included health, WASH, nutrition, education, protection, and emergency preparedness and response. Advocacy work was carried out with decision-makers at national and subnational levels, to encourage them to take effective measures to promote environmental sustainability and reduce risk for children and their communities. UNICEF Colombia also promoted behavioural change in feeding practices for children under two years of age in extremely poor families that were consistent with healthy environments and suitable hygiene. This was complemented by the provision of access to WASH services using technologies responsive to climate change in rural communities of northern Cauca.

UNICEF, as cluster lead in WASH, promoted coordination between the Risk and Disaster Management Unit, the Vice-Ministry of Water and other national institutions in order to implement the WASH sector policy, taking fully into consideration the risks to children and adolescents.

In the area of emergency preparedness and response, UNICEF Colombia carried out training and exchange of experience with the National Board of Education in Emergencies for climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as risk management. An Education Unit Contingency Plan was created with the Ministry of Education, to respond to drought in the context of the high probability of the El Niño phenomenon.

Negative environmental impacts from the mining and energy sectors have increased, especially as a result of actions by some illegal local organisations. Polluted water sources, proliferation of vectors associated with health problems, food insecurity and increasing population displacement are some of the impacts being felt. The presence of these extractive activities has also catalysed problems of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. UNICEF made progress in working with the largest oil company in country, ECOPETROL, to design a work plan for 2015 to deal with this issue, specifically from a child protection perspective.

Effective Leadership

The Country Management Team (CMT) held 11 meetings in 2014, during which all of the dashboard indicators were reviewed, with special emphasis on HACT quality assurance activities (e.g., legalisation of transfers to implementing partners) as well as contracting

processes and the timely closing of travel authorisations. Among other things, Early Warning Early Action and the Business Continuity Plan were updated as a consequence of this review. Thanks to this monitoring, UNICEF Colombia consistently showed high levels of compliance with organisational policies and rules.

The Joint Consultative Committee met three times, dealing with matters of interest to the entire office and related to the work climate. These meetings enjoyed the constant and active presence of the board of directors of the Staff Association.

Rotation of the members of the governance committees was carried out, and an Emergency Committee was created.

All of the audit observations have been closed since 2013, but emphasis was placed on audits of implementing partners as part of quality assurance activities.

An extensive review of all of UNICEF's roles in VISION was carried out, with the objective of reducing and mitigating conflicts related to separation of functions. As a result of this review, several users were modified, achieving reduction in the number of conflicts to six, all of which were mitigated. UNICEF Colombia will continue working to eliminate conflicts completely.

Financial Resources Management

With regard to the management of financial resources, UNICEF undertook two significant initiatives that required the coordinated involvement of several areas:

1. Review and rationalisation of bank accounts:

- a. A new account was opened at Citibank with the objective of permitting payments by transfer, thus reducing transaction costs and improving the process of account reconciliation. The opening of this account constituted a considerable challenge due to the poor response by Citibank, whose Colombia branch was unaware of the 2014 global agreement with UNICEF.
- b. A new account for the fundraising area was opened at a local bank, with the objective of reducing collection costs and improving the quality of information collection, to permit greater recovery of funds and transaction monitoring.

2. Control of contributions by local donors and foreign governments:

There was constant oversight of financial implementation and of the status of use of resources in each component. Implementation was also constantly monitored by the CMT. Also, detailed monitoring took place of the monthly cash flow presented by each area of the office, with payments dependent upon said monitoring, to ensure that the office always had an adequate level of cash, helping the central treasurer's office to maintain the largest possible amount of cash without incurring shortages.

A monthly closing procedure was established by the CMT to reduce risks inherent to the annual closing.

Existing costs in telecommunications were reviewed and compared with alternative technologies. At least 40 per cent of telephone costs will be reduced in 2015 by using SIP technology, allowing communication through VOIP.

Fund-raising and Donor Relations

UNICEF Colombia had a total allotment of US\$17.4 million in 2014, of which US\$1 million were regular resources, US\$1.4 came from emergency funds and US\$15 million from other resources (OR). Of the total, 95 per cent (US\$16.6 million) was utilised. The same proportion was utilised from OR (US\$14.2 million) including resources carried over from 2013. During 2014, UNICEF Colombia received US\$9.6 million in new OR resources, of which US\$1.4 million came from emergency funds and US\$4 million were raised through PFP channels. For the first time ever, UNICEF Colombia contributed US\$200,000 to UNICEF's regular resources. All figures are as of 15 December 2014.

All 14 scheduled donor reports were delivered on time. The quality assurance mechanism to generate executive results-based reports included systematic monitoring of all drafts by sector specialists with subsequent review by the Programme Coordinator (Deputy Representative). The review involved financial analysis by budget assistants and final approval by Head of Office. The CMT conducted continuous follow-up of donor report schedules and issued alerts when appropriate.

UNICEF Colombia sped up local fundraising growth, including improved timing and quality of communication with individual donors. It adjusted monitoring systems (removing 3,000 outdated individual donors from the database), increased data analysis, and developed a new payment platform to maximise donors' value. These actions resulted in 11,000 new pledge donors (a 199 per cent per cent increase over 2013). The average pledge donation target was reached (observed value in US\$ was below the target, due to depreciation of the local currency).

In 2014 UNICEF Colombia established open dialogues with 130 companies including banks, telecoms, public services, insurance, health, extractive industries, mass consumption and other services. Local fundraising income rose from US\$3.4 million in 2013 to US\$4 million in 2014.

Evaluation

In 2014 UNICEF Colombia planned three external evaluations: 1) a review of the relevance, effectiveness and sustainability of results of multi-year cooperation programmes with Canada and Sweden; 2) assessment, with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, of the effects of a national peace-building project on the attitudes toward peace and reconciliation of selected communities affected by the armed conflict; and 3) measurement of the effectiveness and scalability of the "La Muralla soy yo" ("I am the Wall") project to prevent and respond to sexual commercial exploitation of children and adolescents in the context of tourism.

The scale of these evaluations, in terms of resources required and the type of internal and external stakeholders involved, posed significant challenges; both in managing the research activities and in guaranteeing reliable recommendations that could inform programming for all interested parties. Moreover, the latter two evaluations are still under final review by UN agencies before receiving appropriate management responses. The first one, however, was successfully finished and served to strengthen UNICEF's evaluation capacity in the process. All programme components participated, taking the exercise as an opportunity for learning and accountability. An external international team carried out the evaluation through a literature review, focus groups with children and interviews with approximately 100 individuals from Government institutions, schools, NGOs, and church-based organisations, among others, to ensure depth and breadth of the data. The evaluation found that several actors at different levels of Government and civil society were able to strengthen protective environments for children and adolescents particularly vulnerable to social exclusion and violence; and that

UNICEF had contributed tangibly to these achievements. The study also recommended that UNICEF increase its field presence and clarify its gender focus. The results were used to inform the new programme cycle and engage in discussions with donors.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

UNICEF Colombia undertook some concrete actions aimed at optimising processes and reducing costs. One of the most important was the drafting of various long-term agreements, some for general office use, and the most important of which involved communication media agency, printing and telemarketing services.

The petty cash limit was increased in order to reduce the small payment transaction load. To reduce maintenance costs the general services contract was reduced from three people to two, which reduced costs by 30 per cent.

The United Nations System carried out the selection of a travel agency in order to establish a two-year agreement. The result was the contracting of two agencies, which is expected to result in a reduction of the cost of plane tickets in 2015 and 2016.

In 2014 UNICEF decided to rent out 25 per cent of its premises, which should lead to lower costs for utilities and additional income.

Supply Management

UNICEF Colombia's supply operation is exceedingly small; it does not have a storeroom for supplies, nor does it make purchases on behalf of the Colombian Government.

It acquires supplies for the nutrition area under the line item "Other Emergencies" from the Supply Division, especially therapeutic food and micronutrients,

Other supplies are acquired locally, as they are easily obtainable in-country at competitive prices, thus avoiding the entire process of transportation, customs and nationalisation, which in many cases substantially increases the cost of the supplies

Security for Staff and Premises

While UNICEF Colombia always guarantees and meets the minimum operational security standards (MOSS), additional measures were taken during the year to improve security conditions. All staff were required to retake the UNDSS security courses and to participate in emergency simulations, such as the UN System and Bogotá's evacuation rehearsals. For selected personnel, UNICEF Colombia provided training in the handling and use of radios and performance of warden roles. The former has progressively increased UNICEF's rate of response to radio checks.

At an internal operational level, UNICEF reviewed the position of, and relocated, security cameras; carried out maintenance of HF and VHF radios; renewed all plans for satellite telephones; and rationalised updated personnel access cards.

UNICEF Colombia made contributions to renewal of the MOSS.

Human Resources

UNICEF carried out nine selection processes, seven fixed-term and two temporary appointments, taking into consideration technical experience, the competencies of the team where the vacancy arose, and gender equity. Four staff member resigned in 2014—two in PFP, one in ICT and one in Communications. Senior management brought this issue to the attention by discussing it with the Staff Association and exploring ways to improve the work environment, as appropriate.

An inventory of the competencies of all staff and of training needs was carried out, which led to a 2014 development programme endorsed by the Local Learning Committee (LLC), which met three times during the year to monitor the plan. Staff members invested 9.2 hours per person in training, emphasising the obligatory courses on basic and advanced security, ethics, IPSAS, HIV, and sexual harassment in the workplace. One hundred per cent of the staff took the courses on security, ethics and work and sexual harassment in the workplace; around 75 per cent took the HIV course and 50 per cent the IPSAS course. Two staff members were selected and trained as peer support volunteers.

Selected staff members were trained in the use of radios and performance of warden roles. The necessary training of the staff for emergencies was verified through the Emergency Committee (focal point staff received training in the subject), and the roster of emergency consultants was updated.

One hundred per cent of staff complied with the dates and quality defined for carrying out the performance appraisal system (PAS), thanks to monitoring by the CMT.

Human resources worked with the Staff Association to ensure that issues related to work climate and differences between staff members and supervisors were handled appropriately. Strong efforts were made to have the staff answer the work climate survey carried out by the Global Staff Association, achieving 100 per cent response.

Three Joint Consultative Committee meetings were held in 2014. A study of ergonomics and morbidity at work, done by a specialist in the subject, was carried out jointly with the Staff Association. The results were disseminated to all staff, and the suggestions made in the study were all implemented, contributing to staff members' physical and mental comfort.

Members of other committees (LLC, CRB, CRC, PCARC and emergencies) were named for 2014-2015, ensuring the participation of all staff of different levels.

Fifty-two consultancy selection processes were carried out, complying with established rules.

With the aim of ensuring participation by all levels of the organisation and greater gender equity, the CMT named two staff members (a man and a woman) as permanent CMT members; a staff member also participates as an invited guest at each CMT meeting.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

In 2014 UNICEF Colombia migrated its e-mail platform from Lotus Notes to Office 365. This transition included collective and individual training sessions in the use of Outlook, Lync and One-drive. All staff members are using all Microsoft Office 365 applications and requests for technical support have decreased in comparison with Lotus Notes. All meetings were conducted through the Lync platform. Also, One-drive is regularly used as the standard system tool to

share information within and outside the office (some partners from the communication and private fundraising and partnerships sections are already using the platform).

UNICEF Colombia completed most of its technological renewal. Eleven new laptops and five desktops were acquired at the end of 2013 and installed in 2014. Eighteen new laptops and four desktops were also acquired and are due to be installed in the first quarter of 2015 according to organisational standards.

Existing costs for telecommunications were reviewed and compared with alternative technologies. At least 40 per cent of telephone costs will be reduced in 2015 by using SIP technology, allowing communication through VOIP.

Connectivity redundancy was implemented among network devices. Access to shared folders is now more efficient.

In accordance with UNDSS policies and guidelines, UNICEF updated procedures and roles for emergency communications among staff members. VHF and HF radios were updated to ensure reliability. All relevant staff received training on the use of satellite-phones.

Programme Components from RAM

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 By December 2014, children, adolescents and women in situation of inequality and exclusion, have access to social services of higher quality.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Official information shows that children and adolescents still do not have full opportunities to grow and develop, given inequities in access to, quality and relevance of basic services that still persist due to geographic, gender, ethnic and economic reasons. For example, the highest maternal and child mortality rates exist in the regions of the country that have a higher proportion of rural, indigenous and Afro-Colombian population. According to the National Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the maternal mortality rate in Chocó is 224.61 per 100,000 live births, 3.4 times higher than the national average (65.89), and the infant mortality rate is 26.63 per 1,000 live births, double the national average.

While the country showed slight increases in the coverage of primary and secondary education and consistent reductions in repetition rates, these averages hide significant equity gaps at the sub-national level, especially in areas with high presence of indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations. While the national net coverage rate in primary and secondary education reached 87.55 per cent in 2013, in Putumayo it was 76.96 per cent, ten points lower.

Colombia has progressed in the definition of policies, plans, programmes and strategies that seek to advance the guarantee of the rights of children and adolescents, especially those that are more economically vulnerable or more excluded. Today, Colombia applies several national strategies on issues such as: (i) improvement of quality, relevant and inclusive education; (ii) expansion in access to and quality of health care and social basic services; (iii) implementation of the National Youth Policy and the national strategy on the prevention of adolescent pregnancy; and (iv) provision of comprehensive attention to children under five years through the early childhood development strategy, 'From Zero to Always'.

In this context, UNICEF Colombia contributed during the reporting year to strengthening the capacity of departmental and municipal authorities, service providers and community agents in the prioritised territories and populations.

With regard to child survival and development, the following activities stand out (for details, see progress reports for corresponding outputs):

- i. Endorsement of the ECD strategy 'Seres de cuidado' ('Care-Givers), at the national and local levels (in prioritised territories). UNICEF's added value consisted of guaranteeing an operational, intercultural perspective in household and community environments to effectively protect children under five years of age belonging to indigenous and Afro-descendant communities.
- ii. Significant reduction of maternal mortality in eight of 12 priority municipalities, through the provision of technical and financial support for local quality improvement plans in health services for pregnant women and children under two years of age.
- iii. Dissemination among relevant stakeholders of the national rural water policy and risk-management policies for water and basic sanitation.
- iv. Application of an integrated model for environmentally protected schools.

With regard to education and adolescent development, the following activities stand out:

- a. Support to effective student retention, via assistance to the Ministry of National Education in expanding the programme, 'La escuela busca al niño, la niña y el adolescente' ('The School Seeks Children and Adolescents'), in municipalities with the lowest rates of education coverage and highest risk of student dropout in the departments of Nariño, Putumayo, Cauca, Córdoba and Norte de Santander (with emphasis on rural and marginal urban areas)
- b. Increased relevance of educational inclusion, in which UNICEF Colombia, together with the secretariats of education, executed strategies for educational inclusion, improvement of the learning process, development of citizen competencies and construction of a culture of peace
- c. Support to stronger links between secondary education and technical and higher education
- d. Expansion of ethno-education
- e. Promotion at the local level of the strategy for comprehensive adolescent development
- f. Strengthening the capacity of children and adolescents for participation and communication with regard to their sexual and reproductive rights, with emphasis on the preventing adolescent pregnancy and HIV (fighting stigma and discrimination).

UNICEF Colombia will continue to support national and sub-national authorities to guarantee the rights of children, adolescents, and pregnant and breastfeeding women to universal access to quality services in education, health, nutrition, development, water, sanitation and hygiene – with special emphasis on indigenous, Afro-Colombian, scattered rural and marginal urban populations.

One great challenge will be the application of Presidential Decree 1953, which hands the administration of education, health, water and sanitation services over to the indigenous peoples. The capacity of indigenous organisations, secretariats of education and health and water and sanitation will have to be strengthened to enable them to jointly manage the policies, roles and functions deriving from the application of this decree.

OUTPUT 1 By December 2014, national and local authorities – including ethnic authorities – and civil society organisations have strengthened their capacity to develop and implement comprehensive strategies that promote educational inclusion of the most vulnerable populations (with emphasis on indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations) and the improvement of the educational quality.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

During 2014 UNICEF Colombia continued to execute an integrated strategy for the improvement of educational quality that facilitates identifying and overcoming the main bottlenecks observed at national and sub-national levels with regard to (a) staying in school, (b) increasing educational relevance and inclusion, (c) greater articulation of secondary education with technical and higher education, and (d) expansion of ethno-education.

I. Staying in school: UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of National Education in expanding the programme 'The School Seeks the Child and Adolescent' to municipalities with the lowest rates of school coverage and greatest risk of drop-out in the departments of Nariño, Putumayo, Cauca, Córdoba and Norte de Santander, with emphasis on marginal urban and rural areas. Some 9,679 children and adolescents were found to be outside of the education system, of whom 5,536 were subsequently enrolled and 4,143 are in the process of enrolling. In the course of implementing the strategy, sub-national barriers to guaranteeing timely entry of children into school were made more visible. A technical board was agreed to with the Ministry of Education's Directorate of Coverage, to examine the situation of children and adolescents in rural areas.

II. Relevance of education and inclusion: At eight educational institutions in the department of Putumayo, located in the areas affected by conflict, the first phase of the project 'Sueña, piensa y exprésate: construyendo una pedagogía creativa' ('Dream, Think and Express Yourself: Constructing a Creative Pedagogy') was carried out jointly with the Secretariat of Education as a strategy for educational inclusion, improvement of the learning process, development of citizenship competencies and the construction of a culture of peace. It provided methods and tools for 212 teachers to incorporate artistic and different languages and the use of new technologies into their classroom practices. The training process included audio-visual materials, language and thought development, music, theatre, body and movement and the use of new technologies.

In the Department of Córdoba (municipalities of Ayapel, Tierralta, Puerto Libertador and Montelíbano), the first phase of a project was carried out to provide technical assistance to the department's Secretariat of Education, teachers and parents with the aim of identifying and measuring barriers to inclusion and the relevance of educational processes. Achievements included: (i) an analysis of the situation of education, (ii) a roadmap for transformation of institutional education projects in terms of quality and relevance, (iii) mobilisation of a citizen and parent network for guaranteeing the right to education, (iv) an agreement with municipal and community social organisations to create a 'Pacto por la calidad de vida en la escuela' (Pact on the Quality of Life at School) that positions education as a public property and a fundamental human right.

III. Ethno-education: During 2014 UNICEF supported educational institutions in the Department of Amazonas for the initiation of education projects with innovative classroom projects, such as: the use of new technologies for teaching of Spanish and the Ticuna language; the production of computer games to teach ethno-mathematics; the linking of ancestral traditional medicine with

teaching in chemistry, biology and science; and the use of indigenous worldviews, stories, myths and legends in the teaching of literature and written language at the primary and secondary levels. These projects were considered the most significant experiences of the Department during 2014, and the Secretariat of Education seeks to replicate them and extend the initiative to other ethno-education institutions. The methodology for ethno-education projects was transferred to the Department of La Guajira. Some 250 indigenous communities participated in the process in 13 educational institutions. Additionally, 400 teachers were trained in ethno-education tools and five day care centres were equipped with didactic ethno-educational pedagogical materials. With Afro-Colombian populations in Cauca and Chocó, the secretariats of education, educational institutions and community councils received support for a comprehensive analysis of the context, including the development of pedagogical tools for work with teachers in the classroom.

IV. Regarding knowledge creation, the right-to-education index was constructed with the alliance “Education, a Commitment for All,” in which civil society organisations, academia and UNICEF participate. Its added value lies in having organised existing information regarding education in the country into the categories of accessibility, availability, acceptability and adaptability. The right-to-education index for the country was launched on 10 December, opening a space for reflection and dialogue about what guaranteeing the right means in terms of public policy. The index will be improved based on the national and regional debate. This index has been analysed with UNICEF’s Regional Office.

V. The comprehensive adolescent development strategy supported by UNICEF Colombia continued its progress and has been endorsed at the local level both by adolescents, as rights-holders, and by local institutions, communities and families as duty-bearers. The strategy was linked with other actions carried out by UNICEF, such as the prevention of adolescent pregnancy, Colombia: The Game of Peace and violence prevention. During 2014, in La Guajira and Chocó, the strategy was transferred to local youth organisations, such as the Corporación Chocó Joven and the Corporación Genera Futuro, permitting its local adaptation and appropriation. This resulted in the following progress: (i) Municipal administrations allocated financial and technical resources to strengthen comprehensive attention to adolescents; (ii) different roadmaps were created and published for access to services such as health, justice, education, culture and protection [in La Guajira, in particular, UNICEF Colombia advanced in the incorporation of a differentiated approach to access to adolescents’ rights with indigenous communities]; (iii) adolescent and youth platforms for influencing local policies were strengthened.

Sexual and reproductive rights of adolescents and young people

UNICEF promoted sexual and reproductive rights with and for adolescents and young people in the municipalities of northern Cauca and Córdoba, strengthening leadership capacity, knowledge of sexual and reproductive rights and the formulation of life projects among the 1,980 adolescents and young people who participated. At the same time, this initiative led to greater recognition of the value of the work of adolescent and youth leaders by municipal administrations and the creation of peer support networks within and outside of their territories.

Technical assistance was provided to the health and education sectors in the prioritised departments, which contributed to creating and/or strengthening adolescent- and youth-friendly health services, as well as to strengthening participation by children and adolescents in planning and evaluating the various strategies to promote sexual and reproductive human rights. Support provided to the National Board for Children, Adolescents and HIV in the cities of Cali, Medellín and Cúcuta permitted several creative initiatives, including a photography exhibit; an

on-line comic strip; the first departmental forum on HIV, aimed at health professionals and teachers; and a video clip 'Tengo ganas de vivir' ('I Want to Live'), contributing information and creating awareness on stigma and discrimination associated with HIV.

OUTPUT 2 By December 2014, decision makers have acquired political and technical guidelines that improve the comprehensive early childhood care at the institutional, community and family domains.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The level of progress is satisfactory. Priority activities and strategies were implemented with national and municipal entities in a coordinated manner.

With the aim of improving unsuitable childrearing and care practices in the home, two processes continued in 2014:

The final phase of the pilot test of the 'Care-Givers' experience on early childhood attention showed that the application of a comprehensive health, nutrition, care and hygiene strategy, combined with direct action by education agents with families and systematic monitoring of the families, can achieve –in less than a year – significant changes in the childrearing practices for young children. The baseline study of 13 key practices in integral care for children under five in 145 families in the municipality of Quibdó (Chocó, Pacific coast) showed at first that nine were at high risk and four at medium risk. After a process of direct training with 18 education agents, followed by the agents working with the families, the second measurement showed that only two practices continued to at high risk, 10 had passed to medium risk and one was no longer considered to be a risk. During the third measurement it was observed that only one practice was at high risk, eight were at medium risk and four practices were classified as no longer a risk. The results were the fruit of joint work with several partners: Fundación Pies Descalzos, Ayuda en Acción and the Quibdó (Pacific coast) zonal office of the Colombian Family Welfare Institute.

UNICEF Colombia concluded phase three of its process of institutional and community support to 11 communities in the municipality of Manaure in La Guajira to guarantee comprehensive and intercultural care for Wayuu during early childhood. Permanent technical and operational assistance to educational agents, prioritised communities and their families led to the creation and implementation of a community-based monitoring system called Ayaawataa ("seeing or recognising oneself," in the Wayuunaiki language). Its principal achievement has been making children and their rights visible in families and communities, given that ancestral cultural practices did not completely favour such recognition. This change in perception has led to more effective care for children under five years of age, to the point that infant mortality and acute malnutrition both decreased considerably. In selected communities, infant mortality fell from 13 cases in 2012 to one in 2014, and acute malnutrition declined from 5.47 per cent in 2013 to 1.4 per cent in 2014.

Poor quality of care is one of the bottlenecks identified in the supply of services; therefore, results were sought in several areas. To improve the quality of health care during pregnancy, at birth and during first two years of a child's life, 12 municipalities received constant training in clinical and management matters, and were assisted to implement and monitor jointly agreed improvement plans. On average, these plans had a fulfilment level of 84 per cent. Actions began in 12 new municipalities in four departments, where improvement plans were formulated and are now being executed. In total, 3,551 staff members were trained and 16,142 clinical histories reviewed. As a result of the execution and monitoring of the plans, significant

improvements were achieved in five departments (Bolívar, Córdoba, La Guajira, Cauca and Putumayo). Comparison of the first and last reviews of clinical histories showed a systematic increase in the reporting of several tests: syphilis testing increased by 18.6 per cent, HIV tests increased by 52.8 per cent, and hepatitis B exams increased by 49.7 per cent. Coverage of the tetanus toxoid vaccine increased by 23.7 per cent. Reporting on the use of the fundal height curve in clinical histories also increased (37.1 per cent in the five departments) and the use of oxytocin during labour rose by 17.2 per cent. Declines in maternal mortality in eight of the 12 priority municipalities can reasonably be attributed to these changes in care practices for pregnant women fostered by UNICEF Colombia.

During 2013 and 2014, UNICEF Colombia supported the Office of the Attorney-General of the Nation (considering its preventive role in the health sector) in analysing the Expanded Immunisation Programme and maternal mortality. This analysis produced alerts with regard to (i) weakness in technical assistance at the subnational level; (ii) weakness in monitoring, supervision, control and coordination with other actors; (iii) inadequate use of resources; (iv) health plans were not suitably aligned with funding sources and proposed objectives; and (v) difficulties with the information system. The results were used by the Attorney-General to support the Ministry of Health and Social Protection in overcoming these bottlenecks.

Timely provision of quality water and basic sanitation services is another bottleneck that affects children's health. At the national level, UNICEF Colombia carried out advocacy with the Vice-Ministry of Water and Basic Sanitation to promote the national rural water policy and national water and sanitation risk management policy. Both policies were formulated and discussed with UNICEF's support and technical input, and were approved in the first half of 2014. In 2015 UNICEF will accompany the Vice-Ministry in efforts to regulate rural water policy and foster mechanisms for indigenous authorities to put into practice the provisions of Presidential Decree 1953, which delegates the administration of water, health and education services to them.

WASH actions promoted at 18 rural schools in two municipalities in northern Cauca improved and adjusted the sanitation infrastructure, the permanent drinking water service and the formulation of risk management plans and school environmental programmes benefitting 11,312 people, 3,289 of whom are children and adolescents. The strategies applied included participation by all actors, constant training and the construction and delivery of supplies for the provision of water, sanitation and hygiene. The practice of washing hands with soap and water was promoted at all of the schools, and the measurements taken before and after confirm changes in attitude and practice with regard to hand-washing with soap and water. This process was coordinated with municipal authorities and the educational community, in partnership with Plan Foundation, Plan International, the Corona Foundation, UNICEF Colombia and the municipalities of Buenos Aires and Santander de Quilichao. The partnership tripled the initially defined funds as well as the coverage.

OUTCOME 2 By 2014, institutional and community environments have enhanced their capacity to prevent and protect children and adolescents from violence, exploitation, and the effects of the armed conflict and natural disasters.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

This result refers to reducing the vulnerability of children and adolescents to violence, in both their daily surroundings and within the context of armed conflict. Despite continuation of the peace talks started by the Colombian Government and the rebel Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP) in 2012, in 2014 the impact of the armed conflict continued to be especially serious, having particular impact on rural areas and on indigenous and Afro-

Colombian communities. As of 2014, children and adolescents represented 47.6 per cent of the officially registered displaced persons – and are likewise disproportionately vulnerable to accidents with antipersonnel mines, recruitment and utilisation by illegal armed groups, as well as sexual violence. In the second half of 2014, the subject of children was finally touched on in the talks between the Government and the FARC-EP in Havana during discussion of point 5, on victims. This represents a positive step that should be defined in terms of concrete measures for the final agreement.

High rates of under-recording have continued in cases of violence against children and adolescents, both within the family and outside of it, including sexual violence in particular. The rate of violence against children and adolescents decreased less during the last five years than for any other age group. In the case of sexual violence, according to 2013 data, 86.34 per cent of all victims of sexual crimes reported by the Forensic Medicine Institute were under 18 years of age. Girls between the ages of 10 and 14 suffer the highest rate of sexual violence of any age group.

The United Nations Secretary General's annual report on children and armed conflict for 2013, presented to the public on July 1, 2014, states that the recruitment and use of children and adolescents by non-state armed groups, criminal bands and gangs continues to be a common phenomenon, above all in rural areas, and especially in the departments of Antioquia, Caquetá, Cauca, Córdoba, Chocó, Nariño and Putumayo. According to monitoring by the Special Team for Resolution 1612 in Colombia, during 2014 the country continued to experience grave violations of the rights of children due to armed conflict, among which forced recruitment and use, sexual violence, attacks on and occupation of school, and the death and mutilation of children stand out. Around 4,000 recruited children and adolescents were documented during 2013 in the report; 81 cases were verified in 25 departments of Colombia, in addition to the 342 children and adolescents demobilised from illegal armed groups reported by the Colombian Family Welfare Institute. These data underline that the problem of recruitment persists, even as the process of de-linking children from illegal armed groups continues.

Ironically, and despite how greatly they are affected as victims both within and outside of the armed conflict, adolescents tend to be perceived by civil society mainly as perpetrators, which often leads to high levels of exclusion, stigmatisation and re-victimisation.

In recent years UNICEF has dedicated significant efforts to ensuring a child-rights perspective in the implementation of the Victims and Land Restitution Law of 2011 (Law 1448) and the public policy on care for victims. Likewise, during peace negotiation processes between the Government and the FARC-EP, UNICEF Colombia worked to raise the visibility of children and adolescents who are victims of recruitment, sexual violence, mines and other harm tied to the conflict. Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, UNICEF Colombia worked in coordination with other United Nations agencies to collect from civil society, through regional panels and national forums, inputs that were subsequently delivered to the parties at the Havana negotiations.

UNICEF also contributed to strengthening the entities responsible for preparedness for, response to and recovery from emergencies, both those caused by conflict and/or by natural disasters. Similarly, UNICEF paid special attention to guaranteeing the access of historically excluded indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations to quality services, in the framework of the CCC. UNICEF worked with Government entities at all levels (local, regional and national) on inclusion of the subject of protection of children in humanitarian situations. It is critical to continue strengthening the capacities of responsible authorities and mechanisms designated for

inter-sectoral coordination that permit implementation of the various policies to effectively protect children against violence.

OUTPUT 1 By December 2014, children, adolescents, families, communities and institutions in the areas most affected by the armed conflict, have increased their capacity to protect children and adolescents; the direct victims will have received comprehensive care as part of the national and international legislation.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF Colombia focuses its work on strengthening the capacity of children and adolescents, public institutions, local authorities and community actors to create and maintain protective environments in the context of armed conflict. UNICEF, together with its implementing partners and institutional, civil society, private sector, academic and international cooperation allies, continues to work directly with children, adolescents, families, teachers and communities in projects for the prevention of violence in the five prioritised departments (Cauca, Córdoba, Chocó, La Guajira and Putumayo), and in other departments (Antioquia, Arauca, Meta, Nariño and Norte de Santander) on specific issues. UNICEF Colombia continues to provide technical and financial support to the Technical Secretariat of the Inter-sectoral Commission for the Prevention of Recruitment, Use and Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents by Illegal Organised Groups, for the appropriate local application of the national policy.

During 2014 UNICEF continued to implement the model of protective environments for the prevention of recruitment in the departments of Sucre, Córdoba, Chocó, Antioquia, Cauca, Nariño, Putumayo and Meta. Implementation began with local projects to prevent recruitment, working with regional partners and supporting national-level initiatives, strengthening the capacity of children and adolescents, their families and their communities in the areas most affected by armed conflict. A total of 50,499 children, adolescents and young people received tools and knowledge that allowed them to identify and promote skills for constructing life projects away from the context of armed violence. During 2014 UNICEF Colombia created a monitoring and evaluation system to learn more about behavioural changes among children, their families and the community resulting from UNICEF's intervention. This initiative produced knowledge about the situation, risk factors related to recruitment and the way in which perceptions related to involvement in illegal activities, armed groups and general attitudes about violence have changed.

The construction of alliances with national and sub-national entities – such as Colombia Joven, Departmental and municipal governments and some local social organisations – permitted expanded coverage and wider impact of interventions, exceeding planned targets. UNICEF Colombia, seeking sustainability of the processes and replication of the protective environments model, carried out methodological transfer to territorial entities such as the municipal governments of Pasto, San José del Guaviare, Villavicencio, Quibdó, Istmina and Tierralta, the Departmental governments of Meta, Cauca and Putumayo, the Victims Unit, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute and non-governmental entities such as Terre des Hommes, the Corporación Lenguaje Ciudadano, Cedavida, and Reconciliación Colombia, among others.

At the national level, a process of review and technical adjustment of the specialised programme for assisting children demobilised from illegal armed groups was carried out jointly with ICBF. The new guidelines are oriented by, among other things, an approach differentiated by ethnicity and gender, and prioritisation of socio-family care modalities over institutional care. UNICEF helped ICBF to identify a budget adequate for the expansion of all services provided. The technical adjustments also included a contingency plan for potential demobilisation of

children and adolescents from illegal armed groups that may result from progress in the peace talks currently being held in Havana. At present, the new senior management of ICBF is adjusting and updating these guidelines based on UNICEF's work. UNICEF Colombia also contributed to strengthening the land restitution process for orphan children who have been victims of the armed conflict.

Along with the 'Colombia Joven' Presidential Programme, UNICEF Colombia supported national initiatives, platforms and methodologies for adolescents and young people to learn and apply specific knowledge on peacebuilding. Initiatives such as Golombiao, the 'Paz a tiempo' diploma course, and the 'Paz a la Joven' process of sensitisation, permitted the training of more than 20,000 young people about how to promote peaceful coexistence in their own contexts, based on their specific reality and daily life. The 'Paz a Tiempo' diploma course, in particular, permitted 3,500 adolescents and young people from the country's 32 departments to replicate activities on youth citizenship and political participation; rights and the construction of peace; analysis of conflicts and violence in Colombia; youth initiatives for the construction of peace, reconciliation and post-conflict life. By the end of the diploma course, 900 youth initiatives had been developed for the construction of peace.

UNICEF Colombia continued to support the National Army to implement a training programme in human rights and international humanitarian law focused on children.

With regard to mine risk education (MRE), significant progress was achieved in strengthening the capacity of community volunteers as multipliers of prevention messages in family, educational, community and institutional environments. MRE activities were carried out in places declared to be in a humanitarian emergency caused by APM/UXO/IED. UNICEF Colombia improved its mechanisms for coordinating with national and international NGOs and with the UNDP to provide survivors and their families with comprehensive assistance under the framework of the Victims and Land Restitution Law (Law 1448). UNICEF Colombia continued to work at the Departmental level to strengthen capacities for coordinated action against mines in the framework of the national policy and Law 1448.

UNICEF Colombia supported the national Government and civil society organisations to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1612 in Colombia, strengthening its information system and guaranteeing timely delivery of all inputs for the required 'horizontal global notes', annual reports of the United Nations Secretary General and the specific report on Colombia. UNICEF provided additional information, as required by the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict. Trend analyses were carried out for presentation in various fora. Monitoring of the Secretary General's recommendations and of the conclusions of the Security Council working group was strengthened through regular meetings with Government institutions, always accompanied by the Ministry of Foreign Relations and the Technical Secretariat of the Inter-sectoral Commission for the Prevention of Recruitment, Use and Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents by Illegal Organised Groups.

In the current context of dialogue for ending the armed conflict in Colombia, UNICEF continued to support national and sub-national level Government institutions, as well as children and adolescents and their communities, on the issues of education for peace, reconciliation, psychosocial care and life skills in preparation for a new post-conflict scenario and the construction of peace.

OUTPUT 2 By December 2014, national, departmental and local institutions that are part of the National Disaster Prevention and Assistance Program, and the attention systems for

populations affected by the armed conflict, have increased their capacity to prevent and provide assistance in emergencies in the framework of the CCC (Core Commitments for Children).

Analytical Statement of Progress:

During 2014, UNICEF Colombia contributed to strengthening the capacity of responsible institutions, implementing partners and key allies for emergency preparedness, response and recovery, especially when disasters affect scattered rural populations, indigenous and Afro-Colombian children, adolescents and pregnant women. Progress was achieved in ensuring a comprehensive response to the needs of children and adolescents related to access to education, water, sanitation, hygiene, and nutritional and health care in the family, community and school environments.

The technical and strategic advocacy of UNICEF Colombia in the clusters of food security and nutrition (FSN); WASH; education in emergencies (EiE); and protection resulted in obtaining more than US\$1.5 million to serve children and adolescents affected by armed conflict in the departments of Nariño, Cauca, Chocó, Arauca, Meta, Guaviare and La Guajira. Around 29,201 indigenous and Afro-Colombian children, adolescents and women affected by armed conflict and/or natural disasters accessed health, education, nutrition, water and sanitation services, as follows: 12,116, nutrition and health; 10,475, WASH; and 6,610, quality education.

UNICEF Colombia, in the context of humanitarian action and in coordination with the Country Humanitarian Team, led the education, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene and child protection sectors in the preparation of two framework documents for humanitarian action in 2015, the “Humanitarian Needs Overview” and the “Strategic Response Plan”.

In the FSN sector, UNICEF Colombia contributed to:

- development and implementation of the Strategy for Nutritional Care in Emergencies, aimed at children, pregnant women and breastfeeding women affected by emergencies and extreme poverty; this strategy included the promotion of breastfeeding and the detection of and care for children with acute malnutrition and with micronutrient deficiencies
- generation of information on the nutritional situation of children, pregnant women and mothers in indigenous communities affected by emergencies; this information was a key factor for obtaining funds and agreement on a coordinated response by various Cluster members.

In the framework of the FSN Cluster’s plan, in the Department of La Guajira UNICEF Colombia carried out a strategy of extramural care in health and nutrition through the network of municipal public hospitals. In this strategy, 94 per cent of the 116 children with acute malnutrition who received nutritional care showed weight gains of from 5 to 15 per cent, depending on the length of treatment. In the health component of this extramural programme, coverage of 100 per cent was achieved in antenatal monitoring and growth and development monitoring, and immunisation schemes were being completed for 100 per cent of the child population. Coverage of this experience will be expanded with resources of the Vice-Ministry of Health starting in January of 2015.

The National Board for Education in Emergencies, led by UNICEF Colombia, supported the Ministry of National Education to design and implement, at the local level, guidelines for formulating School Risk Management Plans. Some 376 educational institutions in the 32 departments implemented such guidelines. UNICEF’s added value centred on the provision of technical assistance and methodological procedures for drafting the guidelines and supporting their application in selected schools.

UNICEF Colombia also supported the design of pillars for the national public policy for boarding schools, as a modality of inclusion and protection for children living in isolated rural areas, especially those affected by armed conflict. A technical board led by the Ministry of National Education was created in late 2014 to develop the guidelines. It is expected that these guiding principles will be formally issued in 2015. UNICEF's contribution consisted of (i) making the effects of armed conflict on schools visible to authorities and civil society; (ii) advocating for the allocation of increased public financial resources to improve the conditions of protection and for a decent life for children; and (iii) promoting a comprehensive education and protection model that improves the opportunities for children and adolescents in relation to school access and effective learning while living in areas heavily affected by conflict.

As leader of the WASH Cluster, UNICEF Colombia facilitated coordination among members of the Cluster and its co-leader, PAHO/WHO – especially for verifying and monitoring fulfilment of the activities and products of the work plan – as well as strengthening the Cluster's mechanisms for internal and external communication (with other clusters, OCHA, the Vice-ministry of Water and Basic Sanitation and the National Risk and Disaster Management Unit). Likewise, as Cluster lead, UNICEF Colombia initiated training for two local humanitarian teams in subjects related to WASH. Training was also carried out on strategic issues, such as gender. Spaces for dialogue with national authorities and cluster partners were also opened through a seminar for the exchange of experience.

OUTPUT 3 By December 2014, the national family welfare system and the justice system as well as local communities have increased their capacity to protect children and adolescents from violence, exploitation, abuse and other violations of their rights, in alignment with national and international applicable law.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2014 UNICEF Colombia supported several initiatives for the strengthening, review and formulation of recommendations to the Colombian State regarding the implementation of the juvenile penal responsibility system. UNICEF participated systematically in academic, technical and legislative debates to ensure that the system maintains its alignment with international standards. It also fostered and accompanied, in coordination with the Rodrigo Lara Bonilla Judicial School, a process of discussion and reflection by magistrates and judges regarding the bottlenecks for implementation of the system. UNICEF participated, as an observer, in the Commission charged with monitoring the human rights of adolescents deprived of liberty, which was mandated by Congress in the second half of the year. The observations and recommendations of this Commission will be delivered in Q1 of 2015.

The incorporation of child rights content into the regular training of the National Police stands out as a valuable initiative. The two documents published have been recognised as very useful material for the day-to-day work of the Police, especially the Children's and Adolescents' Police: "Guidelines for Training National Police Instructors in the Rights of Children and Adolescents and the Children's and Adolescents' Code", and the booklet "Basic Recommendations for Action by the National Police Related to Children and Adolescents". UNICEF Colombia completed the process of transferring to the National Police the diploma course on 'Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law with Emphasis on Children', initially developed by Sergio Arboleda University. This process included handing over the web-based platform of the course as well as training a specialised team from the National Police in how to implement its content and methodology.

UNICEF Colombia supported the participation of 239 people, among them national family

welfare system personnel and around 150 members of the police, in the Third International Symposium on Children's and Adolescents' Rights, the theme of which was preventing and responding (in terms of justice and protection) to the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. The National Police initiated contact with the Mounted Police of Canada in order to include Colombia in the process of providing technical assistance in the response to sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and adolescents. During 2014 UNICEF supported participation by the National Police in local training processes on the juvenile penal responsibility system and sexual violence against children and adolescents.

Joint work with the fundraising area of UNICEF Colombia strengthened the 'Huésped de Corazón' ('Guest with a Heart') fundraising strategy, as well as certification of The Code. For the former, the mobilisation strategy used in Cartagena was adjusted, and its implementation extended to other tourism destinations, such as Medellín, Barranquilla and the Bogotá-Melgar-Girardot tourism corridor. In 2014 negotiations began to coordinate strategies for the prevention of and response to the commercial sexual exploitation (and trafficking) of children and adolescents in the main municipalities of the Amazonian border region. In the latter strategy ("The Code"), UNICEF Colombia supported the certification process of 53 new companies, for a cumulative total of 178 companies in Colombia currently committed to prevent exploitation and trafficking. Both strategies (Huésped de Corazón and The Code certification) now have the potential to be expanded nationally, as well as for dissemination as a best practice in international fora.

Based on the past experience of building and disseminating a strategy of indigenous authorities and communities to protect children against violence in Amazonas, UNICEF Colombia strengthened other community and institutional strategies in the Departments of La Guajira and Cauca, with special emphasis on intercultural dialogue around sexual violence against girls and female adolescents.

During 2014 UNICEF Colombia, along with entities of the national family welfare system and civil society, held several seminars at the international, national and sub-national levels that led to improving the knowledge of diverse actors with regard to the rights of children and adolescents in Colombia, which has served to inform public policy debates.

OUTCOME 3 By 2014, children and adolescents are an evidence-based priority in the national legislation and in socioeconomic policies, at national and territorial levels.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

This result aims to contribute to overcoming the difficulties related to the creation, circulation and use of up-to-date, disaggregated and differential knowledge and information on the situation of children's and adolescents' rights, as basic inputs for decision-making. It likewise contributes to the national goal of strengthening institutional capacity – understood on the one hand as the availability of human, physical, technological and financial resources, and on the other as knowledge and application of the basic processes of planning, management, organisation, execution, monitoring and control that constitute public administration – with emphasis on policies related to decentralisation and territorial development. Lastly, it contributes to the strengthening of a culture of legality that recognises and applies the principles of the international instruments ratified by Colombia, the National Constitution and the laws that form the framework for the protection, guarantee and restitution of the rights of children, adolescents and young people.

Thus UNICEF's cooperation has placed priority on strategies of: (i) production of knowledge in

areas such as the capacity of local governments to include children's and adolescents' rights in Departmental and municipal development plans, and the possibility of improving programmes of private social investment for children; (ii) advocacy on subjects such as the reduction of child poverty in Colombia, the situation of indigenous children, child-sensitive social protection systems, and urban disparities for children; (iii) design and implementation of capacity-strengthening strategies for the actors responsible for managing public policies; (iv) strengthening the participation of children and adolescents in public affairs; and (v) updating and developing the information system on children with national data and design of appropriate mechanisms for its dissemination, circulation and use.

Some of the products worth mentioning in regard to this result relate to improvements in public action for children and adolescents, to which UNICEF contributed through:

- a) Strengthening of the programmatic platforms of the political parties, so that relevant and concrete commitments to guaranteeing the rights of children were included in the presidential elections in 2010 and 2014 and sub-national elections in 2011
- b) Positioning of children and adolescents on the political agenda of Departmental governing authorities as a priority in their administrations
- c) Progressive improvement of the quality of planning for children, measured by the incorporation of diagnostic studies, programmes and budgets on strategic matters related to this population group. For example, territorial development plans have improved in this perspective in 92.9 per cent of municipalities and 100 per cent of Departments during the past four years. Compared to the first evaluation (2004), using a 1-100 scale, in which 100 per cent of the plans scored between 0 and 30, in the 2012 evaluation only 6 per cent scored between 0 and 30, and fully 46 per cent received the best scores (60-100)
- d) Increasing transparency and governance capacity in matters relating to children, through a public accountability process in which the national Government and more than 97 per cent of the territorial entities of the country participated
- e) Improved use of available information for decision-making through the compilation, updating and user-friendly availability of data on children and adolescents produced by 19 official national sources through the DEVINFO personalised web-site 'SINFONIA'
- f) Creation of a national board for public social spending for children, to improve the allocation, execution and monitoring of investment on behalf of this population group.

Given the presidential election that took place in the second half of 2014 and consequent changes in administration – especially at the Colombian Family Welfare Institute, the National Planning Department and the Colombia Joven Presidential Programme – UNICEF Colombia made an effort to ensure that priorities related to children and adolescents would be incorporated into the new National Development Plan, through preparation and consultation of the document “Estrategias para la garantía de derechos y la promoción del desarrollo de la primera infancia, la infancia, la adolescencia y la juventud: Aportes para las bases del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2014-2018” (“Strategies to Guarantee Rights and Promote the Development of Young Children, Children, Adolescents and Young People: Contributions to the Pillars of the 2014-2018 National Development Plan”), involving more than 1,700 actors in all 32 Departments and the Capital District.

In this context, UNICEF Colombia will continue to manage knowledge and information to contribute to better decision-making for children and adolescents. It will likewise continue to strengthen the institutions responsible for guaranteeing the rights of children and adolescents, as well as the capacity for joint action by the various sectors and powers of the State and sub-national levels, so that the management of policies, plans and budgets is more effective.

Mobilisation, social dialogue and citizen participation, especially by children and adolescents, will continue to be a priority.

OUTPUT 1 By December 2014, representatives of public sector and civil society, have increased their capacities to produce, circulate and apply evidence based knowledge in the formulation, management and monitoring of policies, budgets and laws to guarantee children and adolescent's rights

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF Colombia exercised influence to improve the programmatic platforms of political parties during the presidential election process, within the framework of the national strategy 'Vote por la Niñez' ('Vote for Children'). The strategy was to ensure the positioning of children's and adolescents' rights on the political agendas of local elected officials, and in the production of inputs for the 2014-2018 National Development Plan. These advocacy efforts were evidence-based, and took into consideration UNICEF's cumulative knowledge and information base on issues such as child poverty, the situation of indigenous children and women, social protection systems, urban disparities and public action for children. During 2014 UNICEF Colombia, together with the Colombian Family Welfare Institute, also contributed to the national knowledge base on childhood and adolescence by completing a study on corporate social responsibility (CSR) related to children and adolescents and creating a toolbox for promoting CSR within private firms.

UNICEF identified and promoted alliances and mechanisms for coordination among diverse entities for the benefit of children and adolescents, among which several stand out: the National Family Welfare System, *Facts and Rights* strategy, national and sub-national social policy councils, National Board for Social Spending on Children and the Board for the Promotion of Public-Private Partnerships. These partnerships allowed UNICEF Colombia to lead the processes of formulation and consultation for the document "Strategies to guarantee the rights and promote the development of children, adolescents and young people: Contributions for the pillars of the 2014-2018 National Development Plan." UNICEF facilitated consultations among more than 1,700 strategic actors from 32 departments and the Capital District.

Two meetings were held with sub-national authorities: the 14th Meeting of Governors for Children, Adolescents and Youth, at which the results of the study on including issues of children, adolescents and young people in the 2012-2015 sub-national development plans were presented, and the 'Second Meeting of Mayors for Children, Adolescents and Youth: New Generations, Territories and Peace,' with the participation of around 200 mayors from the country's most vulnerable municipalities.

Also, UNICEF contributed to increasing transparency and governability with regard to public issues related to children through the strengthening of oversight mechanisms. UNICEF's played an active role in the process of design, implementation and adjustment of the public accountability process for action to guarantee the rights of children and adolescents, the first round of which enjoyed the participation of more than 97 per cent of the sub-national entities of the country. It was expected that the second round, in progress in late 2014, would maintain this high level of participation and continue to promote improvement in the living conditions of children and adolescents.

Lastly, UNICEF contributed to ensuring that the principles of national and international legal frameworks for guaranteeing the rights of children and adolescents were respected and

adequately included in legislative action in the country during 2014.

During the remaining period of the current cooperation programme, UNICEF will continue to increase and improve the circulation and use of knowledge and information regarding children and adolescents as an input for decision-making in the processes of formulation, execution or monitoring of public policies for children and adolescents. UNICEF will likewise continue to strengthen coordination among the public, private, community, academic and/or cooperation sectors and among the various territorial levels, in order to achieve more legitimate processes and more effective and sustainable results for children and adolescents.

OUTPUT 2 By December 2014, representatives of public sector and civil society from the prioritised departments and municipalities have increased their capacities to manage public policies that guarantee children and adolescent's rights

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2014, UNICEF Colombia continued to strengthen local capacity for the management of public policies for children and adolescents. Several outputs stand out:

1. The availability of national and sub-national information regarding children and adolescents was increased through continuous updating and expansion of the Web-based DEVINFO tool, SINFONIA, as reflected in several actions.

(a) Information was added on 100 indicators from 28 national sources, disaggregated down to the municipal level, exceeding 11 million data items.

(b) Fourteen new local SINFONIA sites were created with UNICEF support, with information from sub-national sources, disaggregated to the village level. As the country does not possess a complete mapping of the villages belonging to the municipalities where the sites are being implemented, social mapping workshops were held for approximate definition of their borders and the location of basic social services supply. Some municipalities, such as Quibdó in Chocó (Pacific Region) and Suárez and Buenos Aires in Cauca, formally incorporated these geographical divisions in their planning processes by way of administrative acts.

(c) Monitoring of the use of SINFONIA was implemented using Google Analytics, measuring the hits on the portal and on each of the options offered by the tool. Indicators were defined, such as (i) geographical tracking of sessions open at country and departmental level within the country; (ii) session growth rate; and (iii) user growth rate. Colombia was, as expected, the country with most sessions opened (14,036), followed by Mexico (6,253) and Peru (3,357). In 2014, compared to the previous year, the session growth rate increased by 209.97 per cent, and the user growth rate by 265.44 per cent. Based on user requirements, two tools were produced, the SINFONIA Community and the SINFONIA Control Panel, through which the user community will be expanded and the upcoming public accountability and development plan formulation processes will be supported.

2. Training and support was provided to different departmental and municipal teams for better management of child and adolescent public policies. Several areas of progress from this initiative can be cited:

(a) Seven of the 12 prioritised municipalities have new strategic policy guidelines to identify targets and indicators related to the situation of children and adolescents; in the remaining territories, action plans were agreed.

(b) Twelve Social Policy Councils and their monitoring mechanisms for governance for children were strengthened.

(c) Opportunities for child and adolescent participation were improved through the development of public dialogues, whose results were taken into account in the construction of desired results

for children in the 12 selected municipalities. More than 8,000 children and 4,000 adults were involved in this process.

UNICEF Colombia will continue to provide technical assistance to Departments and municipalities to strengthen their information systems related to children and adolescents and to help them use the systems for management (formulation, execution and monitoring) of their public policies for children. UNICEF will likewise promote the active involvement of diverse social sectors in the management process, as well as increased participation by children and adolescents. Special emphasis will be placed on the allocation and good implementation of resources and on strengthening oversight mechanisms.

OUTCOME 4 Effective & efficient programme management and Operations support

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Uncertainty with regard to a new Country Programme document created a challenge in terms of support, especially during the first half of the year. Despite this uncertainty, and others related to the political and financial contexts, UNICEF managed to implement and deliver on time. The staff structure was adequate to meet needs, despite unusually high staff rotation. Also, the Operations area faced some specific challenges, such as refurbishing the building in which UNICEF's offices are located.

OUTPUT 1 Governance and Systems

Analytical Statement of Progress:

All objectives were met before Dec. 2014. Special attention was paid to following up all relevant performance indicators, leading to a very high level of compliance. As of Dec 22nd, there were no outstanding DCTs over six months, no open TAs, no overdue donor reports, no unused service requisitions.

OUTPUT 2 Financial Resources and Stewardship

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF Colombia showed an appropriate level of use of financial resources, and an appropriate level of cash availability, according to financial regulations.

Performance of key financial indicators was very good, thanks in part to regular oversight by the CMT and other governance bodies.

Fluctuations in exchange rates presented a major challenge in 2014. Toward the end of the year, especially in December, there was a sustained increase of the exchange rate in favour of the dollar, which caused a sudden availability of funds that were used appropriately by Dec 22nd.

OUTPUT 3 Human Capacity

Analytical Statement of Progress:

All planned actions were taken on in a timely and efficient manner. Despite unusually high staff rotation, the staff structure was adequate to the needs of the office. A special effort was needed to assure that the operations structure kept on track, mainly due to PBR decisions and the 2013

freezing of GS freezing posts. Thanks to follow-up by Human Resources, with the support of the Staff Association, 100 per cent of staff participated in the global survey.

OUTPUT 4 Sales

Analytical Statement of Progress:

As described above, UNICEF signed a contract with a new licencing partner in 2014 and is still waiting for results, although the expectation is that there is not much potential for this income stream.

Document Centre

Evaluation

Title	Sequence Number	Type of Report
Responsabilidad Social Empresarial para la Niñes y Adolescencia	2014/010	Review
Derecho a la verdad de niños, ninás y adolescentes en el contexto de justicia transicional y conflicto armado	2014/009	Study
Proceso Monitoreo y Evaluación de la Campaña Respira Pas de Naciones Unidas (draft)	2014/008	Research
Proceso Monitoreo de la Campaña Respira Paz de Naciones Unidas (draft)	2014/007	Research
Propuesta metodológica ajustada del índice del derecho a la educación	2014/006	Research
Sistema de monitoreo de la estrategia de entornos protectores	2014/005	Research
Buenas Prácticas Internacionales de Países en Post-Conflicto	2014/004	Study
Violencias en la primera infancia en Colombia	2014/003	Review
Educación inicial en el marco de la atención integral en Colombia	2014/002	Study
Joint Evaluation of the Cooperation Programmes of UNICEF Colombia with Canada (2009-2013) and Sweden (2011-2013)	2014/001	Evaluation

Other Publication

Title
Training course on peace-building (Diplomado Paz a Tiempo) (video)
Commemoration of girl day (video)
Vox Pop: Report on the indigenous tournament of Golombiao, the game of peace
Peacemakers (Pasadores) messages (video)
What is Paz a la Joven? (video)
Some Guidelines and Tools for the Prevention and Care of Adolescent Pregnancy: Let's Walk Together
Assessment of the level of inclusion of children`s rights in sub-national development plans (2012- 2015) (media available)
Guidelines for school planning in disaster risk reduction
Community education projects in northern Cauca
Comprehensive overview of local context to design education community projects in Cauca

The right to education index (digital media)
Education proposal for early childhood development in indigenous communities in La Guajira
Community Education Project - Wayuu Childhood: education for life - preparing for life
Diagnostic of the situation of WAYUU children and adolescents