

Cuba

Executive Summary

Cuba has been experiencing a period of deep changes stemming from both international events – including the restoration of diplomatic relationships with the United States and a rise in foreign investment – and national events, with the updating of the economic model, expansion of the non-state sector, and a substantial increase in incoming flows of tourists.

Estimated GDP growth for 2015 was 4 per cent, which is higher than previous years. Moreover, foreign debt was renegotiated with many creditor countries, in the framework of the Paris Club. However, Cuba's economy remains vulnerable to possible significant changes in countries with which it maintains strong economic and commercial links, and to the short-term impact of the announced unification of the two domestic currencies.

The State continues to provide free social services to all children and adolescents, and Cuba is the country with the best child health and education indicators in the region. Nevertheless, some studies highlight increasing social heterogeneity and disparities, mainly affecting families living in complex social situations, as well as children in the most vulnerable areas.

A severe drought affected several provinces, particularly Santiago de Cuba, Las Tunas, Holguín, Camagüey and Ciego de Ávila, with detrimental consequences on drinking water availability and hygiene conditions that impact the epidemiological situation, with an observed increase in diarrhoeal and vector-borne diseases such as dengue. The United Nations System is in dialogue with the Government for the emergency response.

In 2015 Cuba was the first country to complete the formal certification process for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission (eMTCT) of HIV and congenital syphilis, led by PAHO/WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS.

This year Cuba also ratified International Labor Organisation (ILO) Convention 182 on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour and reviewed with the Committee on the Rights of the Child the first periodic report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Optional Protocol on the Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC) and the first periodic report on implementation of the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC).

The 2015 visit by UNICEF's Executive Director to Cuba contributed to positioning UNICEF as a key partner and voice for Cuban children and to further strengthening South-South cooperation.

Partnership with PAHO was strengthened and resulted in joint work on several issues, including Cuba's certification process for eMTCT of HIV and congenital syphilis; health systems strengthening in the framework of the GAVI alliance; and joint technical assistance provided to monitor the switch to inactivated polio vaccine (IPV).

New partnerships with research centres were set up (Latin America Social Sciences Faculty, (FLACSO Cuba) and the Centre for Psychological and Sociological Research (CEPDE) of the National Statistical Office) in order to generate new knowledge on childhood and adolescence. Existing partnerships were strengthened, including the Centre for Studies on Population and Development (CIPS) and Centre for Research on Cuban Youth (CESJ).

The following important results were achieved this year:

- 72.6 per cent of ill children in neonatology services received pasteurized human milk through the seven human milk banks (HMB) established with UNICEF Cuba's support over the years.
- Results from the multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS) were disseminated and used by several national institutions, providing for the first time data on new topics such as child protection, particularly domestic violence and child discipline. These results create a robust baseline for monitoring.
- A more proactive and progressive process for including students with disabilities into regular schools is taking place at the local level, as a result of a participatory research/action initiative led by the Ministry of Education.

The following shortfalls jeopardise Country Programme implementation:

- Despite some improvements in the procedures for importing goods related to health and nutrition, overall national rules and procedures for supply import are complex and time-consuming, affecting the timely delivery to final recipients.
- The current drought hampered the achievement of expected results in UNICEF-supported projects in the province of Santiago de Cuba.

Humanitarian Assistance

In 2015, the emergency response to hurricane Sandy, which severely affected the eastern province of Santiago de Cuba in October 2012, was concluded. UNICEF Cuba had led the response since the beginning the UN System's response in the education and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sectors.

In the education sector, the renovation of day care centres continued. Of the five planned, one was already functioning and four received the necessary materials and are currently being renovated, allowing 402 girls and 467 boys between one and six years of age to receive quality education in comfortable and safe environments.

Moreover, 200 early childhood development (ECD) kits were purchased to support educational activities for children in 20 per cent of day care centres and those who participate in the "Educate Your Child" programme in the province. In total, more than 14,000 children aged between one and six years benefitted from these kits in the municipalities of Santiago de Cuba, San Luis, III Frente, Contramaestre, II Frente, Palma Soriano and Mella, which were lacking adequate educational materials.

Response actions in the WASH sector contributed to partially mitigating the consequences of the current drought, aggravated by the impact of El Niño. The drought, however, hampered the achievement of all expected results in this sector.

UNICEF Cuba contributed to improving access to water in the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities in seven municipalities in the province of Santiago. Approximately 46,618

inhabitants in these communities (23,378 women and 10,200 children and adolescents) gained improved access to water, due to the complete rehabilitation of 22 pumping stations, which are now functioning thanks to the procurement of pumping and disinfection equipment. At the same time, water quality standards established for human consumption were guaranteed, and water supply was improved – before the intervention, water distribution via pipes used to supply these locations only every 15 days.

All these emergency response actions were complemented by the regular programme. For instance, the development of a social communication strategy for hygiene promotion that includes hand-washing and digestive disease prevention is currently implemented in one of the most vulnerable areas of Santiago de Cuba, and will be completed by the distribution of 254 WASH kits and 9,000 20-liter collapsible water containers to the most vulnerable families and those at risk of being affected by waterborne diseases.

According to official data, more than 460,000 people are affected by water scarcity in the province of Santiago de Cuba alone. According to information provided by the National Institute of Hydraulic Resource (INRH), during the rainy season running from May to October, rainfalls did not exceed 84 per cent of the historical average. This season was the ninth driest since 1901, namely in the past 115 years. The dams supplying the city of Santiago de Cuba are only at 18.9 per cent of their total capacity (182Hm³) and the driest period of the year is just starting, lasting approximately until May.

Other affected provinces include Las Tunas, Holguín, Camagüey and Ciego de Ávila.

The UN System is currently in dialogue with the Ministry of Foreign Trade to support the national response to the drought. Several meetings were held with the aim of preparing a joint integrated response proposal. In this context, UNICEF is leading the WASH sectoral group, which also encompasses education interventions.

Mid-term Review of the Strategic Plan

Taking into account the Country Programme document (CPD) and UNICEF's work in Cuba, the Country Office would benefit from a stronger focus on early childhood development in the strategic plan. This would be in line with the strong emphasis that UNICEF has put on early childhood as a foundation for lifelong health and development in recent years. Early childhood is a key moment in life and should be approached in a holistic manner. However, the current strategic plan applies the same compartmentalised approach that UNICEF witnesses and critiques in many countries, separating education, health, nutrition, etc. UNICEF should “walk the talk” and adopt the integrated approach to ECD that it is advocating.

There are other emerging issues that are not fully reflected in the strategic plan, such as health system strengthening and non-communicable diseases, particularly obesity. Child obesity is increasing in Cuba, and needs to be properly addressed. Other important topics highlighted included adolescent pregnancy, which remains a problem in Cuba, as in many other countries in the region.

South-South cooperation (SSC) should be better reflected in the Strategic Plan as a highly effective implementation strategy, and measurement tools should be developed to measure the results of such cooperation.

Programme information database coding should be reviewed so that emerging programme

issues are adequately reflected. This will also allow for better reporting on results and funding spent.

As part of the discussions on a new resource allocation system within UNICEF, it is crucial to take into consideration the situation of middle-income countries that do not have PFP operations and, in addition to regular resources, are highly dependent on income from regional and global thematic funds and global set-aside funding.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

BCP: Business continuity plan
CEPDE: Centre for Studies on Population and Development
CESJ: Centre for Research on Cuban Youth
CIPS: Centre for Psychological and Sociological Research
CMT: Country management team
CPD – Country Programme document
CRC: Convention on the Rights of the Child
DCT: Direct cash transfer
ECD: Early childhood development
ERM: Enterprise risk management
EWEA: Early warning/early action
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization
FLACSO/Cuba: Social Sciences Latin American Faculty
GDP: Gross domestic product
GSSC: Global Shared Service Centre
HACT: Harmonised approach to cash transfers
HIV/AIDS: Human immunodeficiency virus / Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
HMB: Human milk banks
IAEG: Inter-agency expert group (on SDGs)
IB: Institutional budget
ICT: Information and communication technology
ILO: International Labour Organisation
INRH: National Institute of Hydraulic Resources
IMEP: Integrated monitoring and evaluation plan
IT: Information technology
LACRO: UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office
LTA: Long-term arrangement
MICS: Multiple indicator cluster survey
MINED: Ministry of Education
NYHQ: New York Headquarters (UNICEF)
OIAI: Office of Internal Audit and Investigations
OPSC: Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
OPAC: Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict
OR: Other resources
PAHO: Pan-American Health Organization
PAS: Performance appraisal system
RCSA: Risk control self-assessment
RR: Regular resources
SDG(s): Sustainable Development Goal(s)

SEISA: Security Services s.a.
TA: Travel authorisation
UNDSS: United Nations Department of Safety and Security
VISION: Virtual integrated system of Information (UNICEF Enterprise resource planning and information system)
VSAT: Very small aperture technology (satellite system)
WFP: World Food Programme
WHO: World Health Organization
UNAIDS: UN Joint Programme on AIDS
UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

External Communication and Public Advocacy

During 2015 the Country Office did not have a communication strategy. Therefore the activities that were carried out were based on one-time contextual opportunities. A first draft of the strategy, which also includes an advocacy strategy, was under review at end-year and should soon be finalised.

UNICEF Cuba did not have its own website, using instead the web platform of the United Nations in Cuba to disseminate information, given the limited Internet access among the Cuban population. In the past there was a web version with the domain unicef.cu hosted on local servers in order to be accessible to the population with national intranet access. For IT security issues, this alternative had to be cancelled and it was decided to create a version on RedDot. The migration process became very complex, but the Country Office should have its own website hosted on the UNICEF HQ server by early 2016.

Midyear, the Cuban Government opened WiFi access points nationwide, but access to Internet and social networks remained very limited and prices very high. The country's connectivity is among the lowest in the world.

Despite this, with support from the Regional Office (LACRO), all staff from the Country Office were trained in the use of social media. Twitter and Facebook accounts were created, with a slow increase in visitors and followers, the majority from outside the country.

As regards traditional media, there was an increase and a better balance between information published on UNICEF at the international level and information covered by national news linked to actions included in the Country Programme. Cuba does not have private news media and there were a very limited number of accredited foreign correspondents.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

Cuba has extensive experience in South-South cooperation (SSC), especially in health and education. UNICEF aims to facilitate this type of cooperation on issues related to childhood.

In 2015, two SSC initiatives launched in 2014 with UNICEF support were consolidated. Honduras and Cuba signed in 2015 a collaboration agreement for the development of the national and community strategy "Criando con Amor", whose objective is to provide Honduran children with integrated early childhood care, based on the Cuban programme "Educate Your Child". As a result, Cuban experts visited the country to provide technical assistance, and civil servants from Honduras visited Cuba to acquire first-hand knowledge. The Cuban collaboration focused on technical assistance, training, development of support materials and implementation of the strategy in four communities in two departments.

With a view to disseminating the Cuban ECD programmes and facilitating SSC processes, coordination began to organise a regional event on ECD and violence prevention in Cuba; documentation of the Cuban experience was underway at year's-end..

Although birth registration is not an issue included in the Country Programme, as birth registration is universal, in 2014 UNICEF Cuba facilitated a visit by the Cuban Ministry of Justice to Peru's National Registry of Identification and Civil Status, and in 2015 this cooperation was consolidated. Representatives from the Cuban Ministry of Justice shared their experience on expanding access to achieve universal registration in Peru, and were interested in acquiring more knowledge on the use of new technologies.

Currently, the Country Office, in collaboration with LACRO and UNICEF's Emergency Operations Division, is engaged in a dialogue with the Cuban Government to explore the possibility of a stand-by global agreement for emergency response in the areas of nutrition, WASH and education.

Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

The main progress regarding the human rights of Cuban children was the ratification of ILO Convention 182, which promotes the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including all forms of slavery or similar practices, prostitution and the production of pornography, illegal activities and any work that affects the health, safety or morals of children.

At the 70th session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, held in September 2015, the Committee reviewed the first periodic report developed by the Cuban Government on the implementation of the OPSC and the periodic report on the implementation of OPAC. UNICEF Cuba actively participated in this process, through sharing information with the Committee and attending the session. Moreover, UNICEF Cuba offered its assistance to follow up on the Committee's concluding observations; their implementation will orient UNICEF programmes, particularly in the area of child protection.

2015 was the 15th year of cooperation with the Ministry of Justice for the dissemination of child rights in the country. A joint reflection is ongoing to determine how to shift from a first phase, focussed on rights dissemination, to the promotion of a culture of rights and the strengthening of the existing national network of reference centres.

The process of updating national legislation and its consequent harmonisation with the CRC is ongoing. UNICEF reiterated its availability to support these processes.

Gender Mainstreaming and Equality

During the second year of the current Country Programme (2014-2018), gender continued to be mainstreamed in all programme interventions.

Key progress in 2015 was linked to the results of the fifth round of MICS, which included new modules that had never been applied before, thus providing more complete and disaggregated information on the situation of children, adolescents and women. For the first time, data on child protection were available, revealing information that did not exist previously on child discipline, child marriage and attitudes towards domestic violence that are linked to gender-related cultural patterns. This survey was also useful to highlight gender gaps, particularly in attitudes and behaviours towards nutrition, which will be addressed during the rest of the Country

Programme.

UNICEF Cuba continued to lead the UN interagency group on gender, which coordinates all activities of the work plan for the implementation of the Secretary-General's campaign UNITE to end violence against women and girls. UNICEF Cuba continued to train adolescent promoters on gender non-violence, through various workshops in which adolescents (both sexes) between 11 and 12 years of age participated, in two neighbourhoods of Havana. During these meetings, they were trained as promoters in order to share their knowledge on gender violence and adolescent rights with others. Moreover, the development of a communication tool for the prevention of gender violence in the school environment started. It is aimed for use by students, teaching staff, education professionals and experts.

As regards adolescent health, 95 adolescents were trained as health promoters on STI/HIV and AIDS prevention, with a strong gender focus. Various STI/HIV prevention interventions were implemented in the provinces of Havana, Granma (east) and Pinar del Rio (west), to promote responsible sexuality among adolescents and young people.

UNICEF Cuba has a gender focal point, who is also responsible for other programme functions.

Environmental Sustainability

National authorities are deeply aware of issues related to environmental sustainability and the impacts of climate change, mainly because Cuba is an island vulnerable to water-related natural disasters. The country is currently affected by a drought aggravated by the impact of El Niño.

UNICEF Cuba continued to work on disaster risk reduction and the promotion of environmental education, through interventions at national and local levels.

From a national perspective, UNICEF Cuba continued to work with the Ministry of Education (MINED) to include issues linked to the impacts of climate change and disaster risk reduction in school curricula and extracurricular activities.

At the local level, multisector work was carried out in schools, with the participation of local authorities and families to strengthen capacities in the most vulnerable communities to reduce risks, improve response and mitigate the effects of climate change. Some 2,644 students (1,222 girls) in 35 schools in 31 communities in the municipalities of Cumanayagua and Manicaragua, located in the central provinces of Cienfuegos and Villa Clara, were better prepared to respond to natural disasters, and their communities were more resilient, through the updating of risk maps and disaster reduction plans and the organisation of simulation exercises, among other activities. Moreover, 140 boys and 121 girls in seven other vulnerable communities in four provinces (Pinar del Río, Havana, Cienfuegos and Holguín) applied the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment's 'Green Map' methodology to identify risks and contributed to training the population.

Furthermore, the INRH, in coordination with MINED and the National Council of Cultural Centres (Casas de Cultura), organised a national story, poetry and drawing competition called "Trazaguas", whose theme is the rational use of water, and whose previous event attracted the participation of 3,996 children from the entire country.

UNICEF Cuba conducted an environmental footprint assessment, and adopted measures to

reduce fuel, electricity, water and paper consumptions and gas emissions. Further details can be found below in the section on 'Efficiency Gain and Cost Savings'.

Effective Leadership

Eight country management team (CMT) meetings were held in 2015. In line with the action plan following the Global Staff Survey, relevant decisions made in these meetings were shared with all staff by the Staff Association.

As part of the recommendations of the audit carried out in July, the CMT's terms of reference were revised to include the monitoring of Office priorities as a specific point on the agenda of committee meetings.

The risk-control self-assessment was reviewed at the beginning of the year, and the same five high risks identified in 2014 were maintained. The mitigation plans for residual risks were reviewed in order to make actions specific and time-bound. A work process to monitor mitigation plans twice a year was set up, and the information in Insight/Enterprise Risk management was updated.

In October, an interagency simulation exercise was carried out to test the business continuity plan, which was updated based on the results. Updates included the composition of the crisis management team and the relocation centres. Moreover, a memorandum of understanding with LACRO was signed in case it is necessary to carry out a devolution process. Early warning/early action information was updated.

In June the review process and electronic certification of roles in VISION was carried out. Periodic review was maintained to avoid or mitigate conflict.

The Country Office began to operate through the Global Shared Services Centre in November without difficulty.

All donor reports were submitted on time and met quality requirements. Trip reports were also closely monitored, and all travel authorisations were closed within 15 days of trip return.

Financial Resources Management

During 2015, UNICEF Cuba prepared its transition to the GSSC, which started on November 16th. The new roles of finance and master data local focal points and releasers were established. This change in the office management was implemented without difficulty.

The Country Office's efforts to encourage payments via bank transfers led to a reduction of payments via cheques by 25 per cent compared to 2014. The Department of Finance (DFAM) channel also continued to be used to pay suppliers outside Cuba.

Use of the cash on hand account was maintained to pay staff salaries, as bank transfers from the UNICEF account to individuals was not authorised by the Bank. Bank reconciliation of this account, as well as those in US dollars and Cuban currency, was carried out without problem and on schedule.

The use of LACRO's long-term arrangement was maintained for the purchase of plane tickets.

The UN System continued without the Government's authorisation for HACT, and direct cash

transfers are not implemented.

The announced monetary unification has not taken place yet.

The internal audit of the Country Office planned by OIAI was conducted remotely from 1 to 20 July without difficulty. The cooperation of the Country Office was underlined by OIAI. The final report was received in September with the following results by audited area:

Governance: Unqualified conclusion: (4 agreed actions medium priority)

Programme Management: Qualified conclusion: (3 agreed actions medium priority and 2 high priority)

Operations Support: Qualified conclusion: (2 agreed actions medium priority).

According to the established action plan, the required information was sent to OIAI in December, which resulted in the closure of six actions. Documentation to close the remaining five will be submitted in March 2016.

The planned financial resources were implemented as follows:

IB: 100 per cent

RR: 100 per cent

ORR: 99 per cent

ORE: 100 per cent

Fund-raising and Donor Relations

Fundraising efforts were intensified in 2015 through frequent meetings with ambassadors of traditional donor countries (e.g., Canada, Japan, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, the EU, etc.) and potential new donors (e.g., Kuwait, Qatar).

The Country Office developed a set of communication materials on the Country Programme, in both English and Spanish. Moreover, several proposals were developed and uploaded to the private fundraising and partnerships marketplace, and a communication was also sent to all UNICEF national committees with various documents attached.

Unfortunately, no positive response to these efforts was received to date, with the exception of the strengthening of collaboration through the Spanish Committee. Thanks to its partnership with the Spanish company IBEROSTAR, an additional donation of US\$ 33,473 was approved for a period of three years, for inclusive education activities. Despite a more favourable environment for foreign investment, this factor has not yet had an impact on private sector fundraising.

During the year, UNICEF Cuba received visits by the president of the Spanish National Committee, as well as a football player from Real Madrid (Sergio Ramos, Goodwill Ambassador of the Spanish Committee), which raised the visibility of UNICEF's work in Cuba.

In 2015, four donor reports were developed on time and in line with UNICEF standards: one consolidated emergency report on UNICEF Cuba's response to Hurricane Sandy, one final report and two progress reports.

All grants with 2015 expiration dates and RR were fully utilised, as planned in the work plan and in accordance with UNICEF procedures and policies.

OR funds raised for the current CPD represent only 27 per cent of the planned OR amount.

Evaluation

Management of the integrated monitoring and evaluation plan (IMEP) for 2015 was optimised through the prioritisation of the main activities, process accountability and quality assurance.

The IMEP currently includes only one evaluation, as some national evaluation standards differ from those of UNICEF. In line with audit recommendations, the Country Office suggested organisation of a discussion with national authorities to explore and define evaluation priorities and procedures acceptable to both parties. This discussion has not taken place, but should happen shortly.

The multi-year evaluation of the implementation of nutritional guidelines for children under two progressed according to the agreed schedule. The preparation and management of responses to recommendations are planned for 2016. The evaluation was conducted at a national scale and assessed the importance of subjective factors and the potential for behaviour change in relation to inadequate nutritional and food practices and habits.

MICS5 results were useful to update and analyse the situation of children. It included new modules and indicators, and became the most comprehensive and reliable source of statistics available on childhood and adolescence in Cuba. The dissemination strategy increased the number of institutions, national authorities and members of civil society interested in results and their potential use for better-informed interventions. New data and evidence on issues studied for the first time were used as baselines, and supported UNICEF Cuba's advocacy efforts on sensitive issues in the national and sub-national context.

UNICEF Cuba provided technical assistance to counterparts and national partners managing statistical information systems. It advocated for the harmonisation of substantial indicators of the situation of children, focusing existing data collection means on vulnerable populations and potential equity gaps, as well as the public availability of valid data sources.

As Cuba is part of the global inter-agency expert group for the Social Development Goals, the Country Office advocated for inclusion of the set of indicators prioritised by UNICEF.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

Efficiency indicators were periodically monitored through the Management Dashboard and remained above the average for Country Offices used as references.

In June, UNICEF Cuba was the first to conduct the environmental footprint assessment, a tool to develop a baseline for the monitoring of fuel, electricity, water and paper consumptions, and hence to support reducing consumption and emissions.

Efforts were sustained to reduce the number of payments of less than US\$ 500, through grouping them.

As recommended by LACRO at the end of 2014, the Country Office began requiring contract committee approval only for contracts above US\$ 20,000. This helped reduce the number of

committee meetings and accelerated the contracting process for supplies and services.

The use of phones was monitored on a monthly basis to keep this operational cost under control.

Controls were set up through the security guards to ensure that air conditioning and lights were turned off after all staff left the premises. Moreover, the office temperature was monitored to keep it pleasant but not too cold. The AC equipment was slowly replaced with inverter equipment, consuming less electrical energy.

The use of sunlight was promoted in the office to rationalise the use of lights, supported by the change in times occurring in the country between summer and winter.

The campaign to reduce printing continued.

Supply Management

Supply procurement for the Country Programme continued to be through the “donation” modality. This means that the Country Office was in charge of the entire bidding and contracting process, while the company designated for handling imports of international cooperation agencies was responsible for customs clearance and distribution to the storage facilities of the various ministries involved.

UNICEF Cuba continued to review all supply requests for both the programme and operations areas to ensure that all procurement resulted in added value for each programme component.

Supply management was still rated as a high risk by UNICEF Cuba due to lengthy customs processing and clearance at the port, which prevented supplies from reaching the final recipients within the established timeframe. The only supplies delivered on time were materials purchased to support training workshops, which were procured directly through the Supply Division and removed from customs and distributed by UNICEF Cuba.

The delay in supply delivery to the final recipient was highlighted by the audit, whose recommended mitigation action was to finalise the supply plan earlier in the year. In order to do so, the Country Office requested its counterparts to submit their supply needs for 2016 before the end of 2015.

Another audit recommendation was to conduct regular local market surveys to identify potential suppliers.

In 2015, the values of supply and service management were:

UNICEF Cuba 2015	Value in US\$
Programmes	1,359, 995
Operations	31, 932
Services	252,586
Total	1,644, 513

The strategy to reduce the number of sales orders was maintained. A total of 62 sales orders and 63 associated purchase orders were issued.

UNICEF Cuba did not have a storage facility for supplies.

Security for Staff and Premises

No security incidents were reported in 2015 inside the Country Office, nor by staff outside the office. Security conditions in the country remained safe.

To ensure the Country Office's security outside working hours, the system of security guards contracted through the employment agency PALCO was maintained. The team members remained unchanged.

The Country Office's security systems (surveillance cameras, alarms and barriers against intruders) were regularly tested throughout the year, and remained in optimal conditions. The fire extinguishers were reviewed by the specialised agency SEISA, and those that did not meet the requirements were replaced.

Established procedures for visitors were maintained.

An interagency training was conducted on procedures to extinguish fires, provide first aid and manage radio systems.

All staff including those contracted through PALCO completed the course Basic Security in the Field II.

Obtaining the TRIP Security Clearance prior to travelling inside and outside the country was closely monitored.

Each UN agency kept its warden system to launch a warning chain in case of emergency. In addition, an interagency warden system was created, which groups staff from different agencies by geographic areas and is activated if the warning chain does not work. A software programme was developed to facilitate the updating of this system.

The inter-agency group of security focal points remained active and held regular meetings to formulate recommendations that were subsequently approved by the security management team.

A self-assessment of compliance with minimum operating security standards was carried out and sent to the regional security advisor for review. The lack of a reliable communication system was identified as the most significant vulnerability in case of emergency.

In October the UNDSS desk officer for Latin America visited Cuba and assessed UNICEF Cuba's security conditions as one of the best within the UN System in Cuba.

Human Resources

On January 5th the ICT Assistant resigned. To fill the unexpected vacancy, UNICEF Cuba requested the support of FAO's specialist, as agreed in the MOU signed with this agency. In May, the recruitment process for this position was finalised and the HR structure of the office was completed.

The transition to the GSSC was well managed, causing no problems for staff.

The Country Office's finance assistant provided support to the GSSC for three months. To fill the position more permanently an internal reorganisation was carried out, which allowed two GS staff members to train on and carry out new tasks, promoting their professional development.

Staff were concerned about the announced unification of Cuba's two local currencies, as the salary scale is calculated on the basis of the currency that is supposed to disappear. LACRO and NYHQ remained informed on this situation.

In November, a comprehensive salary survey was conducted. Its results should be shared in the first half of 2016.

Performance appraisals (PAS 2014) and planning for PAS 2015, were finalised on schedule. In August, the mid-term review was fully completed, and the final phase of PAS 2015 was planned for completion before the end of February 2016.

The learning and development plan developed by the Country Office was approved and the funds received. All planned activities were carried out, using 91 per cent of the planned funds. The remaining US\$ 377 was returned to LACRO in November.

The Country Office continued to guarantee a comfortable workplace, with a good working environment.

The follow-up action plan of the Global Staff Survey was regularly monitored and reported to LACRO as requested.

The digitalisation process of official status files for national staff was completed.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

Microsoft Office 365 cloud-based services continued to be used in a satisfactory way. New features allowed a more effective use of information technologies as they provided more comfortable, efficient settings, such as the user-friendly interface, calendar management, access to emails through different channels and devices, a larger size for attached files, an increased mailbox capacity, OneDrive to store and share files online and Skype for Business for Instant Messaging and Multi-party conferences with Audio/Video.

After the visit of the Regional ICT Adviser in May 2015, it was recommended to:

- Replace outdated IT equipment(five computers and 14 laptops), which is gradually being done.
- Assess and monitor data transmission: the analysis was carried out by ICT HQ concluding that there was a degradation of the terrestrial portion of the circuit between Miami and New Jersey. To remediate this issue the x-connect cable was replaced between EMC and Cogent allowing a re-configuration to Full Duplex.
- Reorganise the wiring of the data centre, which was implemented and properly documented.

The IT disaster recovery plan was updated as an essential component of the business continuity plan, and a simulation exercise was conducted with satisfactory results.

Training and support provided by LACRO on the use of social networks and Internet, as well as the creation of the 'Digital Transformation Project' contributed to increasing UNICEF Cuba's presence on social media. Mobile tools also strengthened this presence.

VSAT is still the only existing communication link, with the absence of a back-up link identified as the most significant vulnerability of the Country Office in relation to IT. Alternative communication options in emergency situations included voice communication using portable satellite devices, and data communication via Internet using the VSAT connection of the FAO and WFP offices.

Programme Components from Results Assessment Module

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 Support: Effective and Efficient programme management and operations support to programme delivery

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Mitigation plans for the residual high risks identified by the Office were reviewed to make them specific and time-bound.

The approved HR structure remained complete: 13 national and two international staff.

The Office continued to provide a comfortable workplace with a very good environment. The action plan of the global staff survey was reviewed on a regular basis, reports were submitted to LACRO.

OUTPUT 1: Effective and efficient Governance and Systems

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Nine local committees were established at the beginning of the year to manage the Country Office. As part of the AMP process, all committee ToRs were reviewed.

All AMP tasks were completed and financial resources implementation was carried out as planned.

OUTPUT 2 Effective and efficient management and stewardship of financial resources

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Bank reconciliations of the two UNICEF Cuba bank accounts and COHA were carried out on time and in accordance with the established schedule.

Availability of funds in the two bank accounts was guaranteed during the whole year.

In June, the review process and electronic certification of roles in VISION through CertMan Approva module was carried out. Periodic review was undertaken to avoid or mitigate potential conflicts. The table of authorities was 100 per cent in compliance with UNICEF's financial policy.

OUTPUT 3 Effective and Efficient management of Human Capacity

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The third phase of the 2014 PAS was finalised in February and the planning phase of the 2015 PAS was finalised in March.

All activities planned for 2015 in the learning and development plan were fulfilled.

OUTCOME 2 Improve the quality of maternal, child and adolescent care, reduced nutritional problems in children and pregnant women most at risk, and integrated safe hygiene practices, with a focus on equity and gender equality.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF Cuba continued to support the quality of well child visits, identified as the ideal setting to promote integrated child and adolescent health. Well child visits include the monitoring of the growth and development of children aged 0 to 18, and the promotion of breastfeeding, age-appropriate food and nutrition, unintentional injury prevention, sanitary and hygiene education, immunisation and other aspects related to child and adolescent health and wellbeing.

UNICEF Cuba also continued to support unintentional injury prevention, as these injuries are the first cause of death among specific age groups. In 2015, 153 health professionals in the provinces of Matanzas (centre) and Granma (east) strengthened their knowledge regarding the initial management of injured paediatric patients. Traffic education actions were intensified, and inter-sectoral partnerships between health, education and the National Transit Department, among others, were reinforced.

In 2015, UNICEF Cuba facilitated the inclusion of Cuba in the regional Neonatal Alliance in order to promote the exchange of experiences. Ten neonatologists benefitted from this partnership through participating in webinars to strengthen their knowledge on new-born health care.

With the support of the Regional Office, UNICEF's Supply Division UNICEF Cuba worked with PAHO to organise a workshop aimed at providing the national pharmaceutical industry (Finlay Institute, BioCubaFarma) more information on international processes, mechanisms, competitiveness and requirements to participate in UNICEF and PAHO international tenders for vaccine and medicine procurement, among other medical products.

OUTPUT 1 Basic health services have the capacities for quality care.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Thirty-two health professionals, all either national specialists in providing health care to pregnant women with extremely grave risks or heads of intensive therapy departments, strengthened their capacity to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality through the approval of intervention guidelines for frequent non-obstetrical complications during pregnancy and the postnatal period.

In 2015, nearly three-fourths (72.6 per cent) of the 405 seriously ill children in neonatology services received pasteurized human milk through the seven human milk banks established with UNICEF Cuba's support. The HMB at the maternity hospital "10 de Octubre" in Havana was renovated and equipped, and one new HMB was created in Camaguey (centre/east). The National Training Centre on Breastfeeding and Human Milk Banks was created, and 425 health professionals from six provinces updated their knowledge on various breastfeeding issues and on the use of pasteurised human milk from the HMBs.

Some 274 primary health care professionals were better prepared to conduct quality well-child visits in the central provinces of Cienfuegos and Mayabeque, as a result of training activities on integrated child and adolescent care promoted by UNICEF Cuba. The Well Child Care Quality Evaluation Guide was applied in 41 per cent of the country's health catchment areas, of which 36 per cent received a satisfactory assessment, thus contributing to service quality.

UNICEF Cuba promoted the linking up of different child healthcare programmes:

- 60 health professionals in the 13 most affected provinces (of a total of 15) strengthened their knowledge on the prevention, control and management of diarrhoeal diseases and cholera.
- 127 health professionals in 10 provinces strengthened their knowledge on the management of acute respiratory infections, bronchial asthma and tuberculosis.

Efforts were sustained to maintain the elimination of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) in Cuba. According to the Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP), 100 per cent of children one year of age were immunised with the MMR vaccine throughout the country. The vaccines were acquired by UNICEF Cuba as they are not produced in-country.

UNICEF supported the PAHO/GAVI Alliance on health systems strengthening, and UNICEF and PAHO agreed to work together to provide assistance to monitor the switch to IPV.

OUTPUT 2 Families of the most vulnerable areas have knowledge and capacities on hygiene practices, responsible sexuality, HIV and unintentional injuries prevention.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Twenty-two of 27 pumping stations affected by hurricane Sandy were renovated and are functioning, thanks to the pumping and disinfection equipment acquired. This contributed to ensuring compliance with the water quality standards established for drinking water in rural, hard-to-reach areas in the province of Santiago de Cuba (east), populated by 46,218 people (including 23,378 women and 10,200 children and adolescents) and affected by Sandy in 2012.

A social communication strategy was developed and implemented during 2015 to promote knowledge about safe drinking water, hand-washing and digestive disease-prevention in two communities with high epidemiological risk that are seriously affected by the current drought – one in the province of Santiago de Cuba (east) and the other in Havana. Approximately 961 health professionals, community leaders, food handlers, educators and representatives from different sectors increased their knowledge on safe water consumption and appropriate food management.

Ninety-five adolescents were trained as health promoters on STI/HIV and AIDS prevention. Various STI/HIV prevention interventions were implemented in the provinces of Havana, Granma (east) and Pinar del Rio (west), to promote responsible sexuality among adolescents and young people.

Cuba was the first country to be certified as having eliminated mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis. UNICEF and PAHO supported MINSAP in this certification process.

Efforts were maintained to promote an inter-sectoral approach to unintentional injury prevention through traffic education: 4,000 children and adolescents participated in 138 study groups, new thematic parks were created and competitions were organised to increase knowledge on traffic

education, road safety and quality of life. Family participation was encouraged.

Some 153 health professionals in the provinces of Matanzas (centre) and Granma (east) improved their knowledge on the initial management of injured paediatric patients, in order to prevent disabilities in children and adolescents.

OUTPUT 3 Families of the most vulnerable areas have knowledge and capacities on healthy nutrition of children under two and pregnant women.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The evaluation of the implementation of nutritional guidelines for children under two began in the provinces of Havana and Sancti Spiritus (centre). Compared to the baseline (2010-2011), the knowledge of health professionals had improved by 52 per cent, however some weaknesses persisted in complementary foods and knowledge about anaemia.

The study on non-nutritional risk factors contributing to anaemia prevalence began in 2015. Four hundred children between six and 60 months of age took part in the study in the provinces of Mayabeque (central) and Isla de la Juventud. Preliminary results pointed out that the recommended umbilical cord ligation time was not implemented as established by WHO regulations in some of the institutions participating in the study. Acute respiratory infections and diarrhoeal diseases were the infections most frequently associated with anaemia.

UNICEF supported the development and design process of nutritional guidelines for pregnant and breast-feeding women: 1,008 pregnant women participated in the development of these guidelines, and 40 health professionals were trained in the provinces of Havana and Pinar del Rio (west).

The practical guidelines for food management in emergency situations that were developed with an inter-sectoral approach were implemented in the provinces of Pinar del Rio, Las Tunas, Santiago de Cuba and Guantanamo. Some 174 health and education professionals, as well as representatives from local governments, strengthened their preparation for nutritional risk management in these provinces.

An inter-sectoral intervention to improve the nutritional intake of vitamin A among Cuban preschool children continued in the provinces of Pinar del Rio and Guantanamo, identified as provinces with a subclinical vitamin A deficiency. Two hundred forty representatives from different sectors (health, education, agriculture and representatives from local governments) in these provinces participated in workshops to develop an inter-sectoral action plan to be implemented in the coming years. Moreover, implementation of the action plans in Artemisa and Mayabeque (central provinces), prioritised in 2014 because they presented serious subclinical deficiencies, was monitored.

OUTCOME 3 Improved the education and development of children and adolescents, with the strengthening of the link between the school, family and community and teacher training.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2015, UNICEF Cuba maintained its support to the Ministry of Education for the training of educational agents in both the institutional and non-institutional modalities of early childhood education, as well as for the curricular updating process under experimentation in six provinces (Pinar del Rio, Artemisa, Mayabeque, Havana, Villa Clara and Santiago de Cuba). The results of the assessment of development objectives, achieved by a representative sample of children

aged 0 to 6 were presented. This assessment, carried out with UNICEF support, was conducted for the first time in the institutional modality and among children with disabilities, and for the fourth time in the non-institutional modality.

The indicator reported in the RAM regarding development achievements refers to the diagnosis conducted among children aged five and six who complete early childhood education. In coordination with LACRO, an integrated case study on the Cuban ECD model is being finalised to be shared at the regional and global levels.

As regards inclusive education, a diagnosis was carried out in six provinces, taking three dimensions into account: knowledge of the survey respondents about disabilities, attitude towards disabilities, and implications of the inclusion for people with disabilities. Participants included special education specialists, teachers, directors and community leaders. Moreover, these participants participated in a training programme to improve learning quality for children with disabilities studying in regular education institutions.

UNICEF's support to the training of teachers and directors of rural, mixed and boarding schools contributed to improving educational quality in priority sectors.

Disaster risk reduction in schools continued to be promoted in vulnerable contexts, through the creation and strengthening of local multi-sectoral partnerships, including local governments and institutions. Schools also serve as the community cultural centres where families increase their awareness and strengthen their resilience to recurring natural disasters, such as the current drought.

OUTPUT 1 The initial education curriculum model has been updated for formal and non-formal care modalities of children under 5.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Most (90.4 per cent) education agents in the six provinces included in the pilot curricular updating process were trained. Progress was made on teacher preparation; transitions between preschool, primary and special education; and family awareness.

Moreover, 80.8 per cent (31,350) of education agents throughout the country were trained on some aspects of the new curriculum, to facilitate the transition and its future roll-out.

Teaching universities developed a new training course on quality early childhood education, including education and development contents in line with the new curriculum.

As regards the "Educate Your Child" programme, the national technical group carried out 100 per cent of the planned visits to rural, mountain and socially complex areas to monitor programme implementation. Gaps in the systematic care and monitoring by provincial teams were identified and could jeopardise the adequate preparation of facilitators working directly with families. The most significant bottleneck was transportation to hard-to-reach areas.

According to assessments by CDOs and special education specialists, 48,264 children with disabilities (80 per cent) who participate in educational programmes supported by UNICEF progressed towards the achievement of expected development results for their age, while 11,768 children (19.5 per cent) did not. Identified bottlenecks were linked to the preparation of teachers working with these children, as 85 per cent did not have a degree in preschool education. This fact, coupled with the shortage

of resources to guide teachers and families, limited knowledge on early childhood specificities.

More than 500 children (261 girls, 336 boys) enjoyed better learning conditions in three day care centres renovated after being damaged by natural disasters in the province of Santiago de Cuba. The reconstruction of seven other day care centres is in progress, and will benefit an additional 1,279 children, including 597. A total of 250 ECD kits were procured to support the learning and education process of more than 14,000 children in this province who participate in the Educate Your Child programme.

One of the main results of the most recent assessment carried out in both early childhood education modalities, was that 98.8 per cent of the 14,907 children who participated in the study achieved the development objectives expected for their age. Gaps were identified in the formation of habits, autonomy, construction and spatial relations.

OUTPUT 2 The inclusive education process in regular education is strengthened to stimulate the learning development of children and adolescents with special educational needs.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The programme to raise awareness and prepare teachers, directors and families of children with disabilities studying in regular education institutions (4,644 children), was implemented in 40 per cent of the country's provinces: Pinar del Río, Havana, Artemisa, Granma, Holguín and Santiago de Cuba

Partial results of the study carried out on children with disabilities studying in regular education institutions included:

- Knowledge on disabilities is still imprecise; disability is still associated with deficiency, due to limited understanding of human diversity.
- It is acknowledged that people with disabilities are rights-holders, but there is a gap between what education professionals think and how they act towards inclusive education.
- Educational care of children and adolescents with disabilities continue to be perceived as a problem to be solved by specialists, not by regular teachers.
- Teacher training is insufficient to implement inclusive education practices.

In addition to the study, 148 local focal points acquired tools for the care of children with disabilities, through 22 workshops organised in the six provinces.

Subsequently, an assessment was carried out in 30 per cent of the regular education institutions in these provinces, which demonstrated that:

- 30 per cent of the centres modified their physical spaces to facilitate access for children with disabilities
- 50 per cent of the centres reorganised their teaching schedules in line with the needs of students with disabilities
- 100 per cent of the centres created teaching materials adapted to the needs of children with visual disabilities (maps and figures with relief) to make up for the shortage of Braille books
- 30 per cent of the centres where children with sensory disabilities study created working groups with alternative communication systems (sign language and Braille)

- 10 per cent of students with disabilities held responsibilities in student organisations.

Moreover, sports were used as a way to promote inclusion. The TV programme “Let’s play”, in which 160 boys and 160 girls, with and without disabilities, promote inclusive sports, was broadcast on a weekly basis. Sixty children with and without disabilities from Havana participated in a pilot inclusive badminton tournament. UNICEF hopes to expand this experience in 2016.

Sixty specialists were trained on the use of sports as an educational tool for inclusion and committed to sharing this knowledge in their respective provinces.

OUTPUT 3 Mixed, boarding and rural areas primary and secondary schools have better conditions and better trained directors and teachers.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Some 147 specialists, teachers and directors of rural, multi-grade and boarding schools in priority areas improved their capacities through training.

Results from this training were linked to classroom quality, academic evaluation, learning, and care for children with disabilities in these contexts, contributing to improving the education system. UNICEF supported the exchange of experiences and the identification of good practices among 9,974 teachers working in these areas, benefiting 97,837 children (49,120 girls) at differing grade levels studying in rural, multi-grade and boarding schools.

OUTPUT 4 Schools and communities of the most vulnerable areas to disasters strengthened their resilience capacities.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Preparedness actions for facing the impacts of climate change and reducing disaster risks at the local level were maintained.

Some 2,644 students (1,222 girls) attending 35 schools in 31 communities vulnerable to natural disasters in the municipalities of Cumanayagüa and Manicaragüa (located in the central provinces of Cienfuegos and Villa Clara), acquired tools to strengthen their capacity to respond to disaster situations. The following results were achieved:

- 100 per cent of schools involved included child participation in disaster prevention in both curricular and extracurricular activities.
- Schools involved families and communities in activities related to resilience to face climate change.
- Families identified the main environmental vulnerabilities of their communities and the measures to implement in case of natural disasters; for instance, risk maps were developed in each school.
- The themes of disaster prevention and climate change were included at the preschool level, through role plays.
- Educational activities were included in local disaster risk-reduction plans. 100 per cent of local risk-prevention plans and school mitigation plans were updated.
- Commitment and support by local governments for the schools’ environmental work.

The Green Map methodology was used as a tool to identify environmental risks in seven

communities in four provinces (Pinar del Río, Havana, Cienfuegos and Holguín), where 33 promoters contributed to the preparedness of 140 boys and 121 girls.

At the national level, the participation of 3,996 children in the XVII Edition of the Trazaguas painting, storytelling and poetry competition was promoted, as part of the national programme to promote the rational use of water.

OUTCOME 4 Children and adolescents enjoy improved comprehensive protection, strengthening mechanisms, and implementation of innovative forms of participation, rights promotion and violence prevention and other risk behaviours.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2015, together with various national partners, UNICEF Cuba continued to support the promotion of meaningful child and adolescent participation through culture, sports, recreation and communication, at both the local and national levels.

Data provided by MICS 5 were used for advocacy on protection issues. In this area, efforts were maintained to strengthen relatively new themes in the cooperation programme, such as the care of children and adolescents without parental care, or with serious misbehaviour or victims of crimes. UNICEF Cuba contributed to updating diagnoses, strengthening institutional capacities and training relevant persons.

Support continued to be provided to actions related to rights promotion among children, adolescents and adults.

Social research centres who are UNICEF partners progressed on several studies on adolescence: their characterisation in the current national context, their participation through culture and their social integration at the local level.

OUTPUT 1 Children and adolescents in Old Havana and other municipalities of the capital have spaces and services for their meaningful participation and the development of life skills.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Implementation of the adolescent development and participation project in Old Havana (“a+ espacios adolescents; Adolescent Spaces”) continued, in collaboration with the Office of Havana City’s historian and with EU financial support (extended until June 2016).

In the framework of this project, coordination between actors involved in integrated adolescent care was reinforced, by strengthening the collaborative network of 189 experts who attended six training sessions and the use of research generated within this project to work with adolescents.

The programme of services and workshops for adolescents was consolidated. 84 workshops on different topics were implemented (44 in two regular sessions from October to May and 40 during the summer edition) and attracted the participation of 1,403 adolescents (133 with disabilities) and 135 students from the municipality’s technical school. An average of 200 adolescents participated in sports activities.

The Adolescent Cultural Agenda was published on a quarterly basis and disseminated to 1,700 people. The weekly radio programme “Contigo somos más” (With you, we are greater), with national reach, was also maintained during 2015.

An 'Adolescent Week' was organised for the first time, with academic and training activities and participation opportunities through culture and sports, among others. Construction of the Centre for Adolescents progressed.

OUTPUT 2 Cultural, sports and recreational spaces of different territories, have capabilities to deliver quality services that promote the meaningful participation of children and adolescents.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

With UNICEF support, the participation of around 35,000 children and adolescents was promoted through cultural activities in national institutions.

A publication was developed with the Juan Marinello Institute, compiling research results on cultural participation of adolescents in Cuba, and two regional training workshops were organized.

In the eastern province of Granma, cultural services were strengthened in two municipalities with urban and rural populations and hard-to-reach settlements, which contributed to rights promotion and the participation of approximately 30,313 children and adolescents, 5,010 youths and 2,985 adults.

The traditional tournament *Football for all* was organised, starting from the local level (more than 80 per cent of the country's schools took part) through the national level, with the participation of mixed teams (girls and boys) from all provinces, based on pre-established regulations promoting gender equality and skills acquisition.

Mass participation events were organised to promote healthy lifestyles and attracted approximately 10,000 children and adolescents.

With UNICEF support, CIPS concluded the current phase of its work in the Los Sitios neighbourhood of Havana, where a methodology to promote the social integration of adolescents was implemented. Some 251 students (45 per cent girls) and 32 teachers (65 per cent women) from lower secondary education were involved. One quarter (25 per cent) of the adolescents participated in adolescent-friendly services. The preliminary report was finalised and will be shared next year.

OUTPUT 3 Homes for children without parental care across the country have the capacities for quality care.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF support contributed to improved living conditions in homes for children and adolescents without parental care.

The training of experts working on these issues was maintained. A national workshop for directors and experts was organised, gathering 99 participants (99 per cent of expected participants) and a second workshop brought together 32 directors of special education systems (100 per cent of expected participants). These workshops addressed legal issues, integrated protection, prevention and foster care alternatives, among other matters.

A survey was carried out to update the situation of homes for children and adolescents without parental care, completed by visits to the different provinces. By end-2015, 11 of the 15 provinces had been visited.

OUTPUT 4 By 2018, prevention, evaluation, treatment, rehabilitation and protection services for children and adolescents at risk, juvenile offenders or victims of crime, have the capacity to provide comprehensive care.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The dialogue on integral protection was maintained with the Interior Ministry. Capacity-strengthening was supported in the 12 Schools of Comprehensive Training, the 3 Protection Centres for child and adolescent victims and similar services available in the different provinces.

MININT experts were trained on the prevention and care for children, adolescents and young people in situations of social risk and on helplines.

South-South cooperation continued on protection issues, mainly with Peru on birth registration.

OUTPUT 5 Children, adolescents and adults of selected communities and prioritized groups have knowledge of the Convention of the Child Rights and the national legislation.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The project *Por un mundo al derecho (For a Rights World)*, under MINJUS' leadership and with inter-sectoral participation, celebrated 15 years of implementation, and is currently being documented to facilitate reflection on past implementation and redesign for the next implementation phase.

1,898 children and adolescents from the entire country participated in the national competition that is part of this project.

Some 184 study groups are functioning (126 in primary education and 58 in secondary education) gathering 2,078 children and adolescents, out of which 58.42 per cent are females.

Five hundred experts and educational agents from different sectors (justice, education, culture, etc.) received training on rights. The national workshop for coordinators was held, with 30 participants from the entire country, and the II Symposium on Integral Protection, focused on the Cuban family in the current context, gathered 93 participants and created a space to reflect on domestic violence.

In partnership with the Centre for Youth Studies, the publication of the magazine *Study* no.19, focused on youth identities and cultural consumptions, was supported. A DVD that compiles all previous editions was developed.

Results of the research on childhood and adolescence in Cuba were shared at two international academic exchanges, in which approximately 10,000 experts participated.

Students from Teaching Universities in five provinces of the country and teachers from the entire country received training on rights.

A study on Cuban adolescents was started, with a survey carried out and focal points held in all provinces, apart from Havana, where it will be held early next year.

Document Center

Evaluation and Research

Title	Sequence Number	Type of Report
MICS5 Cuba.	2015/001	Survey

Lessons Learned

Document Type/Category	Title
Lesson Learned	Strengthening disaster resilience in vulnerable schools and communities in the province of Sancti Spíritus, Cuba