

El Salvador

Executive Summary

In 2016, the first year of the cooperation programme, UNICEF El Salvador focused its efforts on strengthening and forging partnerships to create the conditions to achieve the expected results of the programme cycle.

Early in the year, El Salvador confirmed its commitment to be considered as a Pathfinder country for the Global Partnerships to End Violence against Children and in October, the Government signed the Abu Dhabi Statement for Action to Tackle Online Exploitation of Children expressing its commitment to address this form of violence. In addition, in the context of the #WePROTECT initiative, a comprehensive communication strategy 'No confies en Emojis' (Don't Trust Emojis) with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Attorney General's Office and the National Civilian Police (PNC) for the prevention of child online violence was developed and launched. During the first months, 194,816 people received information through social networks and 200 downloaded the app.

Because of UNICEF El Salvador's efforts to territorialize and extend early childhood development (ECD) services for children aged 3 to 5 years old, the Ministry of Education and Salvadoran Institute for the Comprehensive Development of Children and Adolescents (ISNA), started piloting a model to improve ECD services in four municipalities. Some 2,229 families of 6,357 children were trained in appropriate child-rearing practices and are participating in the 241 family circles created to strengthen family ties. This methodology involves a low-cost strategy to expand coverage as it focuses on community involvement.

UNICEF contributed to the elaboration, launch and funding of the national Plan for an Educated El Salvador (PESE). The plan represents a coordinated and integral proposal to address six major challenges to tackle the most pressing problems in education: the resolution of these problems would mean a major stride forward in terms of realizing every child's right to education and also contribute to reducing the high levels of violence and criminality affecting El Salvador.

With UNICEF El Salvador's technical assistance, the Neonatal Alliance and the National Sub Commission on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) supported 14 municipalities with the highest rate of the Zika virus. An integral response plan was designed and implemented, including actions on communication for development, training and cleaning in communities and school centres. More than 50,000 children, women and their families received appropriate and timely information about the symptoms and consequences of Zika. Based on this experience, a wider and comprehensive intervention was designed and will be implemented starting in January 2017 with financial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The year 2016 was marked by an aggravation of the fiscal crisis and further polarization between the main political parties. The first year of implementation of the Plan El Salvador Seguro (PESS) to tackle violence and crime has seen a slight drop in the homicide rate (to 20 per cent). However, violence continues to be a serious concern in the municipalities of interventions. As a result, some implementing partners have been obliged to slow down their

activities and faced additional costs for security.

In the framework of the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Peace Accords, and in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a proposal to ensure that the dignity of adolescents and young people subject to the juvenile justice system is respected was elaborated and submitted to key decision makers, including the President. The proposal recommends the setting up of a specialized commission to promote a process of social and educational return of adolescents and young people, who are currently deprived of their liberty, to their families and communities. The commission will also be tasked to address the situation of overcrowding in the detention centres for adolescents and young people. The proposal is currently being discussed for its possible implementation.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision and Plan International to strengthen the National Child Protection System in El Salvador. An evaluation of the system was conducted, bottlenecks were identified, and a participatory process for reviewing, and drafting a proposal for amending the administrative and legal procedures of the Comprehensive Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents (LEPINA) has started. This proposal will be submitted next year to the Parliament.

UNICEF El Salvador strengthened its alliance with the National Commission on Breastfeeding (CONALAM) to develop a national plan requested by the Ministry of Health to increase exclusive breastfeeding and control the use of breast-milk substitutes. The plan will be launched in January 2017.

Humanitarian Assistance

UNICEF El Salvador responded to two emergencies during 2016, one caused by the ongoing drought and another by the Zika outbreak.

In response to the prolonged drought over the past five years, the United Nations system received support from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in the amount of US\$2.71 million. From this, UNICEF received US\$160,000, which was spent on providing care to children suffering from malnutrition or at risk of malnutrition in the areas most hard hit by the drought.

Following UNICEF supported-interventions, 886 children under 9 years old were identified and provided with care (among them 85 suffering from severe acute malnutrition and 801 risk of acute malnutrition). UNICEF El Salvador also helped strengthen the capacity of seven hospitals in the three departments with supplies and training to treat the 85 identified cases of severe acute malnutrition.

The remaining 801 children at risk of acute malnutrition (acute or moderate) were treated in the Ministry of Health Community Health Units. These units received the supplies needed, such as ready-to-use therapeutic food, oral rehydration salts (ORS), ReSoMal (powder for the preparation of an oral rehydration solution) and children's mid-upper arm circumference, and training was also provided to 298 health workers to improve identification of the affected population and the care services given to them. Nutritional conditions were also monitored, and 14,501 children at risk of acute malnutrition were treated and monitored. At present, the Ministry of Health has the supplies and the trained staff needed to continue carrying out an active search and providing both the community and hospital services required.

In January 2016, the Ministry of Health issued an epidemiological alert based on an international warning from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) about the

consequences of the Zika virus and announced preventive measures. Since the onset of the outbreak, 11,393 new suspected cases have been recorded, and of these cases 362 were pregnant women.

Since March 2016, a total of 50,000 children and their parents from 14 municipalities in the departments of Cabañas, Chalatenango, Cuscatlán and San Salvador, departments with the highest rate of incidence for Zika, received information (radio spots and printed messages) and were mobilized to prevent the illness and promote the suitable management of clear water, wastewater and water fit for human consumption. In addition, at least 1,000 pregnant women suspected of being infected with the Zika virus continued to receive prenatal check-ups.

In 2017, with support from USAID, efforts will be expanded to raise the community's awareness and commitment to identify and prevent Zika and other key determining factors of health, including the environment, violence and access to healthcare services, through a workplan agreed upon and coordinated with other national institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). UNICEF is also facilitating coordination with other institutions that are contributing to the response.

With support from the Government of Japan, a total of 784 children in child welfare centres and 116 adolescents confined in four social integration centres are benefiting from better hygienic conditions. The 167 technicians from ISNA working in these centres received training, tools and supplies to prevent the spread of the Zika virus. Likewise, 770 adolescents on probation participated in community awareness-raising activities on Zika.

With technical support from UNICEF El Salvador, the civil protection system designed, printed and distributed at national level 150,000 toolkits (a set of quick guides to communities and families for preparedness) to improve the readiness of the Departmental, Municipal and Community Commissions to respond in an emergency. The toolkit represents a key instrument and an innovative approach to build local preparedness and response capacity to protect the rights of children in emergencies.

Emerging Areas of Importance

In 2016, UNICEF El Salvador initiated a new country programme. The priority issues identified by the country office (CO) were the prevention of violence against children, the prevention of irregular migration of children and the protection of migrant children, as well as the access to integrated early childhood development services.

Violence against children. In the context of its current country programme, UNICEF El Salvador, is implementing an innovative approach in five municipalities characterized by high levels of violence and high percentages of child migration, with the purpose of addressing some of the factors that influence irregular migration of children.

The approach focuses on interventions aimed at improving availability and accessibility of violence prevention programmes, increasing educational opportunities and improving the institutional capacity at the municipal level to prevent and respond to child protection violations. The approach builds on the role and responsibilities of local governments and provides a basis for community mobilization around child protection issues and sustainability of community-based interventions. The approach emphasizes the importance of community actions, and the preventive role of family and school in the well-being of children and protection against all forms of violence. The approach serves as a model that can be replicated in municipalities presenting similar characteristics.

The selected interventions include: child protection surveillance and warning systems; flexible school modalities and vocational programme; and recuperation and vitalization of safe public spaces. The interventions are being implemented in five municipalities: Ciudad Delgado, San Marcos, San Martin, Santo Tomas, and Soyapango.

In 2016, UNICEF carried out major advocacy efforts to improve generation of information, build new partnerships and engage in fund-raising to raise awareness of the situation of migrant children and the respect of their human rights. In October 2016, a letter of understanding was signed with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for the provision of services to migrant populations, especially repatriated children and adolescents and displaced children in need of protection in El Salvador.

The protection of migrant children. Migration dynamics, particularly irregular migration, have generated new needs and concerns for the protection, care and development of children and adolescents in El Salvador. Recent studies on migration have revealed that violence – in particular gang-related violence and gender-based violence – in addition to limited access to social services, family reunification and the lack of opportunities, are among the leading causes of child migration. Irregular migration has also increased children and adolescents’ vulnerabilities to commercial or sexual exploitation, trafficking, forced recruitment by criminal gangs, and school dropout, thus jeopardizing their education.

According to official data, 8,002 children were repatriated between January and November from Mexico and the United States. There has been an increase of approximately 20 per cent since 2015, as the number of repatriated children was 6,457 last year.

Early childhood development. With UNICEF El Salvador’s efforts, the Ministry of Education and ISNA, the main institutions responsible for ECD, adopted a strategy to achieve universal coverage and improve the quality of family counselling programmes of early childhood. In September, implementation of the pilot of this strategy, called ‘Territorialization’, started in four of the most violent municipalities (Ciudad Delgado, Mejicanos, Santa Ana and Sonsonate), with the participation of local authorities, the Ministry of Health, PNC and other institutions. This strategy focuses on inter-institutional coordination, capacity building of local actors, voluntary work and the inclusion approach in the attention of early childhood Centres of Orientation and Resources to facilitate the diagnosis, care or referral of children with disabilities.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

CERF	Central Emergency Relief Fund
CONALAM	National Commission on Breastfeeding
CONED	National Education Council
CONNA	National Council for Children and Adolescents
CSOs	civil society organizations
DIGESTYC	Directorate General of Statistics and Census
ECD	early childhood development
ESEN	Higher School Economics and Business
FUSADES	Foundation for Economic and Social Development
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer
ISNA	Salvadoran Institute for the Comprehensive Development of Children and Adolescents
LEPINA	Comprehensive Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents

MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
NGOs	non-governmental organizations
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PESE	Plan for an Educated El Salvador
PNC	National Civilian Police
RESALDE	Salvadoran Network for the Right to Education
SAE	School Administration System
STPP	Technical and Planning Secretariat of the President's Office
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene

Partnerships

The focus during the first year of the country programme document was the establishment and strengthening of partnerships to achieve expected results more efficiently, in a coordinated manner, considering available resources. UNICEF El Salvador developed a strategy to guide the establishment of alliances and agreements with municipalities, NGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs) and universities. In 2016, 18 agreements were negotiated and signed. UNICEF with the Escuela Superior de Economía y Negocios (Higher School of Economics and Business, or ESEN), expects in 2017 to complete the mapping of all public and private institutions involved in providing services and programmes to children.

UNICEF has also spearheaded innovative forms of partnerships in El Salvador. Thanks to UNICEF El Salvador's advocacy, the country is now a Pathfinder country for the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children. UNICEF El Salvador is facilitating this process; interventions in 2017 will focus on speeding up the consolidation of the partnership and the adoption of a national plan on violence prevention.

UNICEF El Salvador has played a key role within the Secretariat of the National Education Council (CONED) for the elaboration and implementation of the Government's plan for an educated El Salvador (PESE). In collaboration with UNDP, UNICEF El Salvador is engaged in advocacy with key decision makers to promote the return of adolescents deprived of their liberties to their families and communities.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the main international NGOs working on children's issues, (Plan International, Save the Children and World Vision), which has led to an evaluation of the child protection system, and the drafting of a follow-up action plan to reform the LEPINA. This process will be completed in 2017.

Although, El Salvador is not a private fundraising and partnership country, UNICEF El Salvador has initiated partnerships with the private sector to promote corporate social responsibility (CSR) with the Business Foundation for Social Action (FUNDEMÁS), an association of private businesses, Davivienda (banking) and Calvo (food sector). A Memorandum of Understanding will soon be signed with Radio UPA (Children's Radio).

UNICEF El Salvador promoted and monitored A Promise Renewed collaborating with the Neonatal Alliance and Ministry of Health to promote friendly childbirth and breastfeeding practices.

External Communication and Public Advocacy

UNICEF El Salvador has made progress in the implementation of UNICEF's global communication strategy and developed its own strategy. Thanks to these efforts, UNICEF has become a reference on children's issues in the media.

A sustained growth in social networks Facebook (58 per cent), Twitter (17 per cent) and Instagram (25 per cent) from January to November 2016 was achieved because of alliances with key digital influencers supportive of UNICEF's work.

In 2016, the protection of children from violence online was a priority. Several partnerships were developed to protect children from the misuse of the Internet. In the context of the #WePROTECT initiative, the campaign Do not trust Emojis (No confíes en Emojis), which was developed with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the PNC and the Attorney General's Office, reached 70,300 people; the manual 'Safe Internet' was elaborated with the telephone company TIGO, and the global #Replayforall campaign contributed to improving communication at home, at schools, and between peers to identify threats and report cybercrimes against children and adolescents.

Another priority for the year was the support to CONED, an advisory body for dialogue and concerted actions on education. UNICEF El Salvador, acting as the Council's Secretariat, supported CONED in the elaboration and implementation of the communication strategy for the Plan El Salvador Educado (Plan for an Educated El Salvador) at national, institutional and community levels.

As part of the seventieth anniversary celebration of UNICEF, UNICEF El Salvador supported the private fundraising and partnership unit in identifying and providing testimonies for the global. There is Hope campaign, resulting in two powerful stories reflecting UNICEF's contribution to the country. UNICEF El Salvador also organized a concert with the Youth Symphony Orchestra of El Salvador, a painting exhibit and a day of celebration with children of the municipality of San Martín, known for its high level of violence. Three national writers joined the Tiny Stories campaign.

Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

UNICEF's El Salvador's country programme document embodies the equity approach and the human rights-based approach in all its work.

The main legal change in the country in relation to children's rights has been the enactment of the Special Law on Adoptions. UNICEF issued observations, which were partially adopted, to ensure respect for international human rights standards, and the principles of the Convention of the Rights of the Child and LEPINA.

As part of its efforts to strengthen the national child protection system, UNICEF El Salvador supported an evaluation of the system and strengthened its collaboration with civil society organizations. UNICEF El Salvador and its partners initiated the development of an action plan to implement the evaluation's recommendations, address the main bottlenecks and support a reform of the administrative and legal proceedings of LEPINA. It is expected that the process of revising and drafting an amendment to the LEPINA will conclude in 2017 and be submitted to Parliament for approval.

UNICEF, in a partnership with UNDP and in the framework of the upcoming twenty-fifth anniversary of the Peace Accords, developed a proposal for the establishment of a specialized commission to address some of the main violations of the rights of adolescent and juvenile offenders deprived of their liberties. The proposal seeks to foster the process of

returning adolescents and young people who are currently in the juvenile detention centres to their families, communities and society. This initiative was submitted to various key stakeholders, including the President.

UNICEF El Salvador also took advantage of the visit of the Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child in November, to advocate with the main authorities in charge of children's issues, as well as civil society for the implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

Thanks to the CO's efforts, El Salvador has adhered to the Abu Dhabi #WePROTECT Statement to protect children from online exploitation. This has led to enhanced partnerships with the PNC and Attorney General's Office to improve services for child victims.

UNICEF is also contributing to the effort of United Nations agencies, especially UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), for an amendment to the minimum age for marriage, focusing on eliminating discrimination against girls, especially exceptions allowing them to marry before they reach 18.

Gender Equality

The current country programme document was designed following the gender approach and the gender action plan.

Sexual violence and pregnancy disproportionately affects girls and adolescent women. Every day, an average of 69 girls and adolescent women become pregnant (UNFPA, 2016). Of all threats to, and violations of, the sexual integrity of children and adolescents, those against girls account for 93 per cent (National Council for Children and Adolescents, or CONNA; reports made in 2015 and 2016).

In order to address gender-based violence, UNICEF El Salvador started a partnership with Oxfam to implement a strategy for preventing gender-based violence, with an emphasis on sexual violence, in 15 schools (7,352 students) from La Libertad and San Salvador, with high rates of violence and teenage pregnancies. The strategy includes awareness-raising and training in prevention aimed at students, teachers and parents, and the establishment of gender-based violence prevention committees with the participation of students. Furthermore, in coordination with the PNC, children, adolescents and teachers were trained about the risk of using the Internet inappropriately to prevent online child sexual abuse and exploitation.

UNICEF El Salvador also supported mainstreaming the gender approach into the methodology También Soy Persona (I'm a Person Too), which focuses on family interactions and adequate childrearing practices and produced a handbook that addresses the empowerment of women, promoting their autonomy and self-esteem.

With respect to the prevention of early pregnancy, UNICEF El Salvador promoted initiatives focusing on the life cycle. These included: (1) the elaboration, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, of a methodological guide for the development of comprehensive sex education with families and children in initial education (family circles) and in preschool; (2) advocacy for the inclusion of information on pregnancy and maternity into the school drop-out early warning subsystem, which will be implemented by the Ministry of Education, highlighting these conditions as the main vulnerabilities affecting girls; and (3) the promotion of the U-Report with the United Nations Gender Thematic Group to tackle the Zika virus and comprehensive sex education.

UNICEF, with other United Nations agencies, especially UN Women and UNFPA, is

engaged in advocacy to promote the amendment of the minimum age for marriage and elimination of the discriminatory exception against girls, which allows them to marry before they are 18 years old.

Environmental Sustainability

In 2016, UNICEF El Salvador continued monitoring the evolution and the humanitarian consequences of the ongoing drought and its adverse consequences on the nutritional situation of children, water availability and quality, and hygiene and sanitary conditions. As mentioned in the humanitarian assistance section, the United Nations system received support from CERF in the amount of US\$2.71 million. From this, UNICEF received US\$160,000, which was used to provide care to children suffering from malnutrition or at risk of malnutrition in the areas most hard hit by the drought.

UNICEF El Salvador has strengthened its capacity to work on climate change by participating in two initiatives led by the UNICEF Regional Office related to humanitarian assistance, resilience and adaptation to climate change.

El Salvador has been selected to test and pilot a framework that more explicitly outlines the connections between disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and the social protection of children and their families. The framework will help guide both UNICEF El Salvador and its partners on how to better address issues of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in a holistic manner. The framework will include a guide for assessing the sensitivity of social protection programmes and systems to disaster risk and climate change. Testing of the framework will be finalized in 2017.

UNICEF El Salvador has counted with a resilience-focused analysis of nutrition and WASH responses to the drought crisis since 2014, focusing on the prioritized areas of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. The analysis evaluates prevention and mitigation initiatives, as well as nutrition and WASH preparedness and response capacities to current and foreseeable needs and potential further intensification of the drought crisis. Results of the analysis were added to the body of evidence in relation to the ongoing efforts and provide concrete and practical recommendations to strengthen nutrition and WASH resilience as part of a multisectoral and multi-level approach.

UNICEF El Salvador took measures to reduce its environmental footprint and during 2016 there was a more efficient use of paper for printing and electricity.

Effective Leadership

UNICEF El Salvador has active statutory committees in place and membership was reviewed to adjust to the new structure.

The country management team held 11 meetings during 2016 with the participation of the UNICEF Representative, Deputy Representative, Officers and Specialists, Local Staff Association and operations to address management priorities including: monitoring of management, financial and programme performance indicators, and the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT), and outstanding direct cash transfers (DCTs), among other indicators. Deadlines and responsibilities were established to facilitate follow-up. Management indicators were monitored regularly through the manager dashboard and other available scorecards. The role of the country management team was reinforced and complemented with programme meetings, under the leadership of the deputy representative.

Although the last audit was held in 2015 and all recommendations are closed, audit observations are a standing item to ensure they remain closed.

UNICEF El Salvador prepared an annual management plan (2016), which was approved by the country management team. The priorities were defined collectively based on the existing risks. A mid-year review was conducted to revise progress.

Vacant posts (deputy representative, communication officer, child protection officer, education officer, and monitoring and evaluation officer, operations) were filled during the year.

Enterprise risk management was reviewed in December 2016 to reflect the increasing confrontations between the police and gangs and the rising homicide rate. The business continuity plan was also reviewed and presented to the country management team to ensure that all members of the crisis group know their responsibilities and functions. A simulation will be organized in early 2017.

El Salvador is one of the countries outside of a conflict with a high level of homicide. Following the visit and recommendations of a security consultant from New York headquarters, the country management team made the decision to enhance staff security. Staff participated in training facilitated by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS).

Strengthening staff competencies was a priority. Training was undertaken in public private partnerships (PPP), the harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT) and results-based management, prioritizing activities agreed upon by the results of the global staff survey. The staff association finalized its workplan.

Financial Resources Management

The country management team held monthly meetings during 2016 with the participation of the representative, deputy representative, officers and specialists, local staff association and operations.

Meetings had a specific agenda which ensured that all financial issues were raised as a regular practice during each meeting and advice was provided to the Representative to support decision-making. Deadlines and responsibilities were clearly established at each meeting to facilitate follow-up.

During 2016, the office continued its efforts to increase effectiveness and efficiency of operations and program management even with the reduction of the institutional budget (IB) funds for this year, savings and reductions of expenses has been achieved. Bank reconciliation was reviewed monthly, according to established schedules. A reduction of almost 60 per cent in the use of photocopy paper was achieved. Scanning of documents is a more efficient practice. Energy savings have also been achieved.

Programme meetings were also held weekly and chaired by the Deputy Representative, with the participation of operations staff. These meetings focus on programme implementation and coordination; however, supply plans, direct cash transfers and HACT, among others, are also monitored.

During 2016, the number of outstanding direct cash transfers which stayed open for more than nine months was drastically reduced, due to a closer follow-up with implementing partners. Throughout the year, 22 programmatic visits and 4 spot checks were conducted, and support was provided to implementing partners on how to fill and present itemized cost estimates (ICE) and FACE forms for requesting cash.

All other resources – emergency and other resources grants expiring in 2016 were implemented on time, and no funds were unutilized.

Fundraising and Donor Relations

UNICEF El Salvador raised about 20 per cent of the expected other resources ceiling for the current cycle. The main bilateral other resources donors were the governments of Japan, the United Kingdom, and SIDA-Sweden; for other resources – emergency, they were Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom and USAID. El Salvador is classified as a middle-income country, and it is increasingly difficult to raise funds in this context.

As a highlight of 2016, El Salvador received funding from the WePROTECT Global Alliance promoted by the Government of the United Kingdom. Another proposal has been submitted, and UNICEF El Salvador is awaiting approval.

In addition, proposals were submitted to potential donors and UNICEF National Committees on migration, juvenile justice, education and emergency preparedness and response. UNICEF El Salvador expects to consolidate these efforts in 2017.

Joint funding opportunities with other United Nations agencies have been sought. Funding was secured from the US National Institute of Health, Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) Fund for nutrition. In the case of other resources – emergency, a proposal was approved for the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) on the same topic. At the end of the year, a conceptual note was drafted for the CERF to provide care to victims of violence, and it is now pending approval.

El Salvador is not a private fundraising and partnership country. However, UNICEF El Salvador has reached out to private sector to stimulate their interests on children's issues. In addition, this year, for the first time, funding has been received from 7: The David Beckham UNICEF Fund of the United Kingdom National Committee for violence prevention work.

UNICEF El Salvador drafted six donor reports this year, many of which were consolidated by the UNICEF Regional Office or with other agencies of the United Nations system. Consolidation represented a challenge for meeting the deadlines because not all the parties involved had the same deadlines.

Regular resources funds were completely spent and other resources funds expiring in 2016 were also spent entirely.

Evaluation and Research

For 2016, UNICEF El Salvador planned to initiate two evaluations: one relating to the midterm evaluation of the armed violence prevention and protection initiative in two municipalities, and the second relating to an evaluation of the implementation of the national child protection system.

The midterm evaluation of the armed violence prevention and protection initiative was reprogrammed for 2017, due to the limited capacity to support monitoring and evaluation work within the office.

However, UNICEF El Salvador carried out the second evaluation, which focused on the national child protection system. The goal was to assess the current implementation of the system to identify bottlenecks and barriers for its full implementation. As a result, a plan of action for the implementation of the recommendations will be designed, as will a proposal for the reform of the provisions of LEPINA related to administrative proceedings. Details

regarding main findings, conclusions and recommendations of this evaluation are listed in the publications section.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

During 2016, UNICEF El Salvador managed to generate savings. Negotiations with the landlord during 2015 resulted in no increase in the rental costs of the office during 2016.

There was a more efficient use of office supplies, especially paper for printing (60 per cent of savings) and electricity following implementation of the UNICEF green office policies.

Local and international travel were better planned, resulting in cost savings.

Suppliers for the procurement of goods and services were selected according to UNICEF procedures of the best quality and lower cost.

Some existing long-term agreements and contracts were shared with other United Nations agencies – for example, graphic designers, information and communication technology and cleaning services – to facilitate use of the same terms, conditions and prices agreed for the service or by the supplier. This practice has resulted in gains and cost savings for the United Nations system.

A long-term agreement among UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP was used to contract the company Moore Stephen to conduct the required macro-assessment for HACT implementation. This macro-assessment was endorsed by the representatives of the above-mentioned agencies.

Supply management

In 2016, UNICEF El Salvador procured locally programme and operational supplies. Supplies were delivered timely to implementing partners in their warehouses and according to a Supply Plan designed at the beginning of the year and monitored throughout 2016. No construction projects were financed during the year.

Implementing partners that received supplies from UNICEF were the Ministry of Health, PNC, the General Directorate of Civil Protection, and ISNA. Most of the supplies were publications and communications printed materials. In addition, ISNA received early childhood kits for community training.

Table 1

El Salvador 2016	Value of supply input (goods and services In USD)
Programme supplies	128,190.44
Operational supplies	4,254.49
Services	106,157.20
Total	238,602.13

No procurement on behalf of other offices or other procurement services were provided by UNICEF El Salvador during 2016.

Supply monitoring field visits were conducted to every implementing partners during 2016, ensuring that supplies and equipment were received according to their requirements and that they were satisfied with the quality.

UNICEF El Salvador does not have a warehouse.

Security for Staff and Premises

Security in El Salvador has been deteriorating for the past two years and gang-related crime rates have spiked; this is having a severe impact on UNICEF operations and staff. The country is considered as one of the most dangerous and unpredictable countries in the region. However, the security level is MODERATE for the entire country, except for the Departments of Cuscatlán, La Paz, Sonsonate and Usulután, which are classified as SUBSTANTIAL.

Based on the recommendations of the security coordinator from the Office of the Security Coordinator/UNICEF's Office of Emergency Programmes who visited UNICEF El Salvador during this year, the following measures were implemented: Staff have been discouraged from staying in the office after sunset; flexible working hours have been promoted as a security mitigation measure, timing and relevance of missions in violent areas are closely monitored and in areas with limited phone coverage, VHF radios must be used. Although, the Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments course is not mandatory in El Salvador at the moment, it has been recommended to all staff.

The office continues to be 97 per cent Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS) compliant and every staff member has passed the basic security in the field and advanced security in the field courses. There is a close coordination with the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) for security clearances of all trips within the national territory, discipline in complying with security provisions and time restrictions are required for all staff. UNICEF El Salvador has conducted four full evacuation simulations during the year with the participation of all staff. UNDSS participated and provided feedback.

The office also requested UNDSS El Salvador to facilitate security sessions on how to react against the most frequent criminal situations: telephone threats, intruders, fire, medical emergencies, suspicious activities and express kidnapping. The security call chain is continuously updated and simulations have been conducted. All staff members have a radio and were trained for its correct use. The business continuity plan has been revised accordingly and shared with all relevant staff members.

Human Resources

During 2016, there were many changes in human resources. A new staff structure was designed in 2015, in response to new country programme document requirements. A staffing plan was designed in collaboration with the country management team and the staff association, and was implemented from August 2015 to September 2016. Seven national officers, four general service staff and three international posts were recruited. All general job descriptions were previously classified. The selection process was conducted in adherence to UNICEF rules and regulations. UNICEF El Salvador worked in collaboration with New York headquarters, the regional office and the multi-country support facility. Candidates were short-listed based on: compliance with job description, technical skills and competencies, and gender and geographic balance were taken into consideration as applicable.

UNICEF El Salvador complied with 2015 performance evaluation report evaluations by March 2016. Staff members agreed on the ACHIEVE planning phase with supervisors by June and are having periodic meetings to monitor performance. A plan in response to Global Staff Survey 2014 was socialized with all staff members focused on three areas: work-life balance, career development and personal empowerment.

The following actions were taken: the learning and development plan socialized with all staff and implemented. Mandatory trainings were monitored on a quarterly basis and staff were committed to finalize them before the end of 2016. All staff members were trained on time management and effective communication, and 95 per cent of staff members completed online training on ethics. Flexible work options were made available and socialized, with five staff members benefiting from them. HIV online training was completed by 77 per cent of staff members, male condoms are available in the office, medical insurance plans cover HIV-related expenses, and the office has first aid and post-exposure prophylaxis starter kits; all staff members know how to access them. The Emergency LFP and his back-up are trained on emergency matters. UNICEF EI Salvador has a roster of professionals with an emergency background for programmatic areas. The office responded to two emergencies during 2016, but the support of extra human resources was not required.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

UNICEF EI Salvador maintained an effective information and communications infrastructure throughout 2016, reaching better standards as a result of the use of the Office 365, which provides the office with a complete solution that gives users the ability to work at any time and from anywhere. One Drive has also provided the option to access files from any computer and share documents with other colleagues. Skype for Business has become a great tool to communicate with the regional office and other country offices around the world and to participate in trainings and meetings through scheduled conferences and webinars in real time and with total security. SharePoint was a key tool to improve teamwork, enabling sharing and editing documents among teams.

During 2016, UNICEF EI Salvador also procured new standard equipment to access Vision out of the office via Citrix.

The office did not develop open source software with its partners.

Radio telecommunications in emergency situations is under the responsibility of UNDSS for all United Nations agencies in EI Salvador.

The communications sector counts on the latest phone technology to report and share information about UNICEF work in real time on Twitter and Facebook, even live transmissions. Thanks to these new communications tools, UNICEF increased in 2016 its 'likes' on Facebook by 61.52 per cent, on Twitter by 18.03 per cent, and on Instagram by 25.19 per cent.

Programme components from RAM

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1: By 2020, children and adolescents in the most violent municipalities have increased access to protection systems, allowing them to live free from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, with a focus on gender-based violence.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2016, the first year of the cooperation cycle, UNICEF EI Salvador, along with its partners, emphasized advocacy interventions to build a consensus and ensure that protection and prevention strategies against violence are based on the national and international human rights legal framework related to the protection of children. The office also worked to mainstream such strategies into national government policies and plans, but above all into

the working plans and methods of local governments, their teams and other stakeholders in local communities.

Furthermore, in order to support the implementation of the LEPINA, with respect to the National Integral Child Protection System, UNICEF El Salvador supported an evaluation of the protection system. The assessment was conducted using a participatory methodology. The report as well as its recommendations were validated by all national stakeholders. Among the main findings are the need to: revise LEPINA's administrative and legal procedures to guarantee access to justice for children in vulnerable situations; improve the coordination and articulation between the main duty bearers and operators of the protection system; and improve the dissemination and enhance understanding of LEPINA, among others. On the basis of the report's findings, UNICEF El Salvador has kicked off a participatory process for the drafting and adoption of an Action Plan to implement the report's recommendations and a proposal for amending the provisions of LEPINA regarding administrative and legal procedures. The process is expected to conclude in 2017.

As part of its strategy to strengthen violence prevention at the local level, UNICEF El Salvador strengthened partnerships with municipalities and civil society to tackle prevention and protection of violence against children in the community. The partnerships aimed at promoting and strengthening the coordination and articulation of the actions of national and municipal government institutions, as well as promoting joint responsibility for enforcing children's rights. A local action model was designed, with four major components: 1) establishing and strengthening local protection systems; 2) implementing the child protection surveillance and warning system to identify, provide services to and monitor children who need protection; 3) building the capacity of families and caregivers so they can learn violence-free child-rearing practices; and 4) building safe communities for children and adolescents through the setting up of safe spaces for child participation, cultural and other activities. Progress was made in progressively implementing the four components in two municipalities (San Marcos and San Martín); and progressive implementation of the model has started in three other municipalities (Ciudad Delgado, San Salvador and Santo Tomás).

The Government of El Salvador voiced its interest in being a Pathfinder country for the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children and pledged to speed up its efforts to prevent and protect children against violence. The country is in the process of selecting a focal point and UNICEF El Salvador will support the process of drafting the national violence prevention plan in 2017.

The country also adhered to the Abu Dhabi WePROTECT Statement and pledged to protect children from online child sexual exploitation. In 2016, UNICEF El Salvador built up its partnerships with the PNC and the Attorney General's Office. These partnerships made it possible to improve the capacity of institutions to provide services to child victims, with the establishment of child-friendly specialized Attention Centres which provide services to children who are victims and/or witnesses of violence and allow them to testify in an environment free of revictimization. Such centres have been established in the municipalities of Ahuachapán, Santa Tecla and Soyapango.

UNICEF El Salvador, on the basis of a partnership with Oxfam and other partners, such as the Women's Association of Santa Tecla and the Evangelical University of El Salvador, is supporting interventions to empower children, adolescents, teachers, mothers and fathers to prevent gender-based violence, especially sexual violence, reduce teenage pregnancies and transform social norms and behaviours by providing training in new forms of masculinities and femininities, as well as psychosocial services for victims of sexual violence and monitoring of violence in schools from selected municipalities. The progress achieved through this initiative is specified in the outputs section.

In the framework of the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Peace Accords, in a partnership with UNDP, a proposal to ensure the inclusion of children at risk and the reinsertion of children in conflict with the law was elaborated and submitted to key decision makers, including the President. The proposal recommends the setting up of a specialized commission aimed at ensuring respect of the dignity to adolescents and young people subject to juvenile justice system. It intends to promote a process of social and educational and reinsertion of adolescents and young people who are currently deprived of their liberty, within their family and community. The commission will also be tasked to address the situation of overcrowding in these centres for adolescents and young people. Taking advantage of the visit of the Vice-Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, to El Salvador in November 2016, the proposal was presented and submitted to various key government and civil society stakeholders. The proposal is currently being discussed for its possible implementation.

OUTPUT 1: CONNA and related institutions are equipped to implement effective instruments and mechanisms for the coordination, articulation and evaluation of the National Integral Protection System.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF El Salvador supported an evaluation of the National Integral Child Protection System with the participation of national institutions that are part of the system. As a follow-up to this evaluation, UNICEF El Salvador is supporting the drafting of an Action Plan to implement the evaluation recommendations. Likewise, on the basis of the bottlenecks that were identified in the evaluation, a process for reviewing and drafting a proposal for amending LEPINA's administrative and legal procedures was started. The proposal is expected to be finalized in 2017 and submitted by the relevant authority to Parliament. In this framework, a cooperation agreement was signed between UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision and Plan International to strengthen the National Integral Child Protection System, including the implementation of the evaluation's recommendations.

In the framework of the strategic partnership between UNICEF El Salvador and Oxfam, children and adolescents who are victims of gender-based violence coming from 28 schools of the municipalities of San Marcos, San Martín, Santa Tecla and Santo Tomás, with high rates of violence, have gained access to psychosocial support services thanks to an inter-agency agreement between the Evangelical University of El Salvador and Oxfam. The information about the programme developed on gender-based violence will be explained in Output 4.4.

Four municipalities from the department of San Salvador – San Marcos, San Martín, Santo Tomás and Soyapango – have set up their respective Local Committee on the Rights of Children and Adolescents. Members of the Local Committee, and representatives from the health and education sectors, the community and the municipality have started the process of building up their skills and knowledge about the roles of the Local Committee with respect to the protection of children and adolescents' rights and improving coordination and articulation between the institutions they represent.

Furthermore, in order to better position its work on child protection, UNICEF El Salvador is participating in and providing technical assistance to a series of coordination mechanisms, among them the : i) National Forum on Local Human Rights Committees and its Secretariat for the Promotion and Protection of Collective Rights; ii) Coordinating Committees within CONNA on the implementation of the Integral Protection system; iii) Forum of institutions involved in juvenile justice, coordinated by the Juvenile Justice Unit of the Supreme Court of

Justice; and iv) National Council for the protection of migrants and members of their family (CONMIGRANTES). At the local level, UNICEF El Salvador gives assistance to the Municipal Commissions for the Prevention of Violence and the Local Rights Committees in the municipalities targeted for UNICEF El Salvador supported-interventions.

OUTPUT 2: Selected municipalities have capacity to implement a validated strategy for the prevention of and protection from violence against children and adolescents, including gender-based violence, as part of the framework established by the National Integral Protection System.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Two municipalities of the department of San Salvador (San Marcos and San Martín) are implementing all of the components of the national strategy. Three other municipalities from the same department (Ciudad Delgado, San Salvador and Santo Tomás) were selected due to the high level of violence, started implementing a few components of the strategy. As part of the strategy to prevent violence against children and adolescents, local authorities in San Martín and Santo Tomás restored and recuperated new public spaces to serve as child-friendly and recreational spaces. This has stimulated the implementation of municipal sports and/or cultural activities, as well as the establishment of a multi-purpose meeting room (in San Martín), which is used by the community, including the Municipal Committee for the Prevention of Violence and the Observatory on Violence.

In Santo Tomás, with UNICEF El Salvador support, the local government developed the El Conacaste Eco-Cultural Park where children access painting and photography courses on a permanent basis in partnership with a well-known Salvadoran painter. So far, 130 children and adolescents from four schools participated to these courses. Likewise, 23 community leaders (teachers, social promoters and representatives from NGOs) participated in art therapy workshops, not only for their own benefits but also to transmit the knowledge acquired to the students in their schools and communities.

In San Marcos and Ciudad Delgado, support was provided for actions to give greater impetus to existing public spaces. As a result, 2,247 children participated in sports, cultural and artistic activities. Through the child protection surveillance system, the local governments in the five municipalities were able to identify 890 children who dropped out of school, were at risk of dropping out and went back to school, or are in the process of going back to school.

UNICEF El Salvador also supported the development and implementation of municipal plans to revitalize public spaces and promote play, sports and recreational activities for children and adolescents, such as soccer, swimming, synchronized swimming, basketball, skating, taekwondo, karate, fencing and chess, among others. The revitalization of public spaces provides opportunities and creates safe spaces for children's and adolescents' participation, including healthy recreational activities to keep them away from violence and recruitment by criminal groups.

With respect to building the capacity of the family and strengthening family ties, 40 families from the municipality of San Marcos acquired skills and built up their knowledge about positive child-rearing practices. This activity implemented by the Protection Unit of the Municipal Mayor's Office is part of a process aimed at reinforcing the protective role of the family, and it will be broadened and replicated next year in the remaining targeted municipalities.

In 2016, five municipalities – Ciudad Delgado, Cuscatancingo, Ilopango, San Marcos and San Martín) drafted their respective Municipal Policies for the Integral Protection of Children. By 2017, the policies will be adopted by the respective Municipal Councils and steps will be taken for the adoption of the action plans.

OUTPUT 3: National authorities have the capacity to implement strengthened and specialized programmes for attention to and restitution of child victims of violence, and unaccompanied child migrants.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In the context of the WePROTECT initiative, UNICEF El Salvador supported the PNC to set up Centres for Services to Child and Adolescent Victims in Crisis in Ahuachapán and Soyapango, and to provide immediate specialized services for children who are victims and/or witness of violence. Thus far, 24 police officers were trained in non-re-victimization techniques. In addition, 26 Public Service Offices were established and the national 911 emergency system offices strengthened to enhance violence prevention and response. Furthermore, UNICEF El Salvador supported the adoption of tools to improve the quality of child protection services, including two protocols: one to attend and provide immediate services to child victims of cybercrime and another to refer cases to the 911 system. In addition, a Handbook for Police Action in Schools was drafted and will be disseminated in 2017.

Efforts to build the capacity of children and their family on violence prevention led to 8,620 children and adolescents, 5,163 parents and 515 teachers being trained about the risks of inadequately using the Internet, and information and communication technologies to prevent online abuse and child sexual exploitation. In 2016, the Prevention Unit of the PNC trained 2,831 students from 51 schools from 24 municipalities, as part of their 'recreational vacations' initiative. Some 70,300 persons were reached by an information campaign about online abuse and child sexual exploitation, which was reinforced by a national Don't Trust Emojis communication campaign with the participation of the PNC and Attorney General's Office, UNICEF El Salvador's technical assistance, funding from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the U.S. Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, and support from the advertising agency Apex-BBDO for the design. Also, an application was created for cell phones, providing information on the prevention of cyberbullying, grooming and sextortion. The application was downloaded by 200 persons and is available on the social networks of UNICEF El Salvador, where it reached 194,816 persons.

With UNICEF El Salvador's support, the PNC set up a Cybercrime Unit (Unidad de Delitos Informáticos) supplied with specialized equipment and software for forensic analysis of cell phones and the search for online child pornography, as well as two certified forensic experts which improved the country's capacity to investigate these crimes and reduce impunity.

With UNICEF El Salvador's technical and financial support, two District Attorney Offices (Santa Tecla and Soyapango), set up a Gesell Chamber and court with staff trained to use it adequately. Guidelines for taking statements from children and adolescents victims and/or witnesses of crimes were developed and adopted. Use of the Gesell Chamber helped reduce victimization of children and secure convictions of perpetrators in most of the cases.

Regarding migrant children, UNICEF-El Salvador has carried out advocacy efforts to improve generation of information, build new partnerships and engage in fund-raising to raise awareness on the situation of migrant children and the respect of their human rights. In October 2016, a letter of understanding was signed with the Office of the United Nations

High Commissioner for Refugees, to provide services to migrant populations, especially repatriated and displaced children and adolescents in need of protection in El Salvador.

OUTPUT 4: Children and adolescents from selected schools and municipalities have increased knowledge on the prevention of gender-based violence and generate greater peer awareness around the issue, focusing on sexual violence and the prevention of adolescent pregnancy.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF El Salvador, Oxfam and other partners empower children, adolescents, teachers, parents to prevent gender-based violence, especially sexual violence, to reduce teenage pregnancies and to transform social standards and behaviour, with training in new masculinities and femininities. Some 28 schools, with 20,869 students, 10,299 girls and 10,570 boys, from municipalities with high rates of teenage pregnancies, especially schools in the municipalities of San Marcos, San Martín, Santa Tecla, and Santo Tomás (from the departments of San Salvador and La Libertad), participated in the implementation of this strategy. Also, 700 children from these schools are part of school-committees and were trained in the prevention of gender-based violence and sexual violence to identify, report and refer cases to the authorities. In 2016, 114 girls and 61 boys from 12 schools, out of the 700 mentioned before, were trained in new masculinities, and became agents of change and replicators among their peers and to monitor violence in their respective schools.

In 2016, as part of the training process carried out by UNICEF/Oxfam, 267 children and adolescents, out of the 700, from schools in San Marcos and Santa Tecla enhanced their knowledge about the prevention of gender-based violence and about the institutions or persons they could reach out to report if they observed or experienced violence. These children carried out educational activities with their peers, and showed leadership in the handling of issues and the use of inclusive language. As a result of this, 2,880 girls, 1,960 boys and 2,450 parents were reached indirectly through replicas in the 28 schools targeted for intervention.

Moreover, 649 teachers were trained and participated in designing the Assessment of Gender-Based Violence in 34 schools (including the 28 main schools) from the targeted municipalities. In that initiative, 11 out of 34 schools took steps to mainstream the cross-cutting strategy for the prevention of gender-based violence into their Annual Operating Plans and Strategic Institutional Plans with UNICEF/Oxfam support, representing a significant breakthrough from the traditional behaviour of school principals with respect to gender-based violence. Indeed, the initiative aimed at getting rid of social and cultural standards based on deeply embedded patriarchal structures. Nowadays, the educational community (teachers, students and parents) have embraced the initiative.

In addition, 25 child protection institutions and 60 key stakeholders (43 women and 17 men), including principals and teachers from schools participating in the project, key staff from the Ministry of Education, municipal committees for prevention and leading institutions in charge of protecting and defending children and adolescents participated in an exchange between schools and child protection institutions to upgrade inter-agency coordination with local mechanisms to strengthen gender-based violence prevention.

In collaboration with UNICEF Honduras, a communication for development strategy for the prevention of violence is being developed. The strategy focuses on the local and community levels, incorporating various communication mechanisms to achieve social and behavioural changes in the communities affected by violence, especially violence against children and

adolescents.

OUTCOME 2: By 2020 children and adolescents, particularly the most disadvantaged, have increased access to, and complete full cycles of, quality early childhood and secondary education in an inclusive education system.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

During the first year of the Programme of Cooperation (2016–2020), UNICEF El Salvador focused its interventions on extending access to quality education mainly at the early childhood (ECD) and secondary school levels to improve completion rates, ensuring a gender perspective and involvement of fathers and male caregivers in positive parenting capacity building. This effort contributed to the progressive decrease of over-age students and the increase of ECD care and education (aged 0–6) and lower and upper secondary net enrolment. Particular target groups for this outcome are out-of-school children under age 6 and adolescents living in poverty and in violent communities.

The main outcomes achieved in 2016 were as follows:

As coordinator of the Secretariat of CONED, UNICEF El Salvador contributed to the production, launch and advocacy for the funding of PESE. The office also contributed to consolidating CONED as an unprecedented forum for political dialogue for the various government and non-governmental civil society sectors, for drafting and steering public policy for education. Through this support, UNICEF El Salvador strengthened its collaboration with UNDP, the Organization of Ibero-American States, the Secretariat for Governance and the Ministry of Education. The adoption of the PESE by CONED and its approval by broad sectors of society is a major victory in a highly-polarized country such as El Salvador. PESE provides a detailed proposal for the investment required to achieve scenarios of universalization in education coverage and improvements in quality education over the coming years.

With respect to ECD, the Ministry of Education and ISNA adopted the strategy proposed by UNICEF El Salvador to achieve universal coverage of early childhood orientation programmes for families, promoting decent, respectful and healthy childrearing practices. In September, UNICEF El Salvador and its partners started piloting this strategy, called 'Territorialisation', in four of the most violent municipalities of El Salvador (Ciudad Delgado, Mejicanos, Santa Ana and Sonsonate), focusing mainly on building up the coordination and capacities of local stakeholders and voluntary work related to early childhood.

With respect to the exclusion of children and adolescents from education inside and outside the education system, UNICEF El Salvador supported Ministry of Education to upgrade and strengthen the 'Fast-Track Education' (Educación Acelerada) modality for basic and secondary education levels, taking advantage of the South-South cooperation agreement between the Ministries of Education of El Salvador and Colombia. UNICEF El Salvador supported this initiative, providing technical support for designing the framework strategy for flexible modalities.

In addition, thanks to UNICEF El Salvador's advocacy, the Ministry of Education agreed to include in its School Administration System (Sistema de Administración Escolar, or SAE) a subsystem to manage information at the school level to ensure early identification of school drop-outs (direct contribution to Output 2.2). This evidence-based subsystem is being technically supported through a partnership with Mexico's Education Project Foundation (Fundación Proyecto Educativo). To date, the partnership has analysed the situation of information management in schools and in the Ministry of Education's National Planning

Department, and provided advisory for the establishment of an ad hoc school administration unit to the SAE. The subsystem will be available in 2017 and validated in schools from selected municipalities.

UNICEF El Salvador also provided support to the Salvadoran Network for the Right to Education (Red Salvadoreña por el Derecho a la Educación, or RESALDE) to continue its campaign, 6 Per Cent Yes for Education, advocating for an increase in government investment in education and mobilizing and raising awareness of society about the right to education and the urgency to hold the Government accountable for its investment in the sector. In the framework of the campaign, UNICEF El Salvador also supported the network with the generation of argumentative information by means of two position papers providing evidence on the need for increased investment in education. The papers are titled 'Education for All: 2030 – Overview and new commitments' and '2030: Identifying funding sources'.

OUTPUT 1: Government institutions and CSOs that provide early childhood education implement inter-sectoral protocols for coordinated scaling up of successful models of early education.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF El Salvador supports efforts to expand coverage of early childhood care. El Salvador is lacking integral services for its development (a major bottleneck), as well as adequate orientation programmes for families. The first of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) shows violent child-rearing practices: 5 out of 10 children are disciplined using violence. Corporal punishment is legally and culturally accepted.

In the current Cooperation Programme, UNICEF El Salvador proposed to the Ministry of Education and ISNA a strategy to provide universal coverage for training programmes for families of young children, in adequate child-rearing practices. The strategy includes: i) articulation of local stakeholders working with families ii) capacity building for local stakeholders and volunteers in training methodologies for families, contributing to expand coverage; iii) establishment of sectoral and inter-sector protocols or agreements to ensure ownership and scalability of the processes; iv) strengthening the inclusion approach to early childhood care from the Centres of Orientation and Resources to facilitate diagnoses and care/referral of children with disabilities.

Ministry of Education and ISNA adopted the strategy, called 'Territorialization', and whose pilot started in September in four municipalities selected for their high levels of violence (Ciudad Delgado, Mejicanos, Santa Ana and Sonsonate) for creating a scalable model.

Products created include:

- Drafting of an inter-agency plan between ISNA, Ministry of Education, the governor's and mayor's offices.
- Drafting of four municipal maps on the early childhood situation and four local care road maps incorporating local and national stakeholders.
- Capacity building of the COR of Ciudad Delgado and Mejicanos and training of 65 technicians associated with it: Teachers Supporting Inclusion (Docentes de Apoyo a la Inclusión) and Technical Assistants for Early Childhood (Asistentes Técnicos de Primera Infancia), in psycho-pedagogical testing and integrated classroom management to respond to children's individual characteristics; accounting for 29 per cent of the goal.
- Capacity building of 2,229 families of 6,357 children in 241 Family Circles (Círculos de Familia) in the four municipalities to improve child-rearing practices (surpassing project's target). Family Circles are community family meetings for parenting education, so that

families can replicate in the households with their children, contributing to their integral development.

- 14 new Family Circles facilitated by volunteers established as a part of the 'territorialization strategy', with 131 participating families, accounting for 366 children. To date, 61 volunteers have been trained. This methodology involves a low-cost strategy to expand coverage in early childhood, given the voluntary nature of the facilitators.
- Besides the pilot, as part of strengthening the curriculum and improving the quality of education, Ministry of Education was supported with technical assistance in logic-mathematics and bio-psycho-motor development. As a whole, 248 specialists were trained as well as 100 per cent of the country's Technical Assistants for Early Childhood (225), which is planned to be replicated in 2017 with 100 per cent of preschool (7,610), Grade 1 (8,370) and special education teachers (238). Furthermore, UNICEF supported mainstreaming the inclusion approach into the transition strategy between schooling levels in 100 per cent of special education schools for 2017. Based on this, the Ministry of Education counts on teachers to be better prepared to provide quality care to young children, directly impacting on their integral development.

OUTPUT 2: The Ministry of Education implements validated mechanisms, teaching practices, management tools and operational procedures to facilitate retention of students and inclusion of out-of-school adolescents.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF El Salvador supports the Ministry of Education with tools and strategies to tackle exclusion in education of children in and out of school, focusing on adolescents at the highest risk in middle and high school.

Students face difficulties to complete their schooling. The threat of dropping out is exacerbated by academic failure, limited access to education, insufficient investment, and high rates of exclusion, poverty and violence. Based on this context, two strategies were supported for: i) preventing children from dropping out of school and ii) promoting their insertion into flexible education modalities, ensuring continuity in education in communities with social and gang violence (64.8 per cent of schools in areas with gangs), and teenage pregnancies (daily about 69 girls become pregnant).

The strategy to prevent dropping out of school involves developing an early warning drop-out subsystem, specified in Outcome 2.3.

As for insertion into the education system, UNICEF El Salvador helped set up a discussion forum with different departments of the Ministry of Education to design a suitable flexible modality. In October, this effort benefited from a South-South cooperation opportunity between the Ministries of Education of El Salvador and Colombia to work on the 'Fast-Track Education' modality for basic and secondary education.

At the local level, UNICEF El-Salvador works with Plan International, the Ministry of Education and the municipality of Ciudad Delgado in a two-year initiative to develop and validate strategies for students' retention and insertion of children who dropped out from school in the 15 more violent schools (13 elementary and secondary schools and 2 preschools), reaching 7,352 students.

The following results were achieved:

-417 students (28 per cent of target) from 13 schools participated in school retention activities (training in the development of a 'life project', empowerment, self-esteem, gender and leadership).

- 144 adolescents (48 per cent of target) from six schools participated in vocational workshops.

- 176 teachers (59 per cent of target) and 459 families (31 per cent of target) from 15 schools were trained on the protection and education right-based approach. Also, 130 families were sensitized through home visits.
- 13 student governments (100 per cent) were established/activated in elementary and secondary schools. These student governments comprise 138 girls and 98 boys, trained in leadership, teamwork and communication, to strengthen their competences. They also organized activities to improve school life and children's participation (gastronomic festivals, recreational mornings and the commemoration of Children's Day).
- 95 children at risk from the 13 schools received psychosocial support to prevent them from dropping out of school and getting into gangs.
- Children from 12 out of 15 schools participated in a Summer Vacation Programme, which included recreational activities and was implemented to raise children's interests and keep them in contact with the school during vacations. The programme was coordinated within the Educational Opportunities local round table.

Regarding educational insertion, 10 children out of school by 2015 participated in vocational workshops, and 347 children were reintegrated in the national programme of flexible modalities being implemented in 6 schools (119 per cent of children and 40 per cent of schools of the target).

OUTPUT 3: Sub-national authorities and communities/School Management Committees have access to information at the school level that feeds findings back to the educational community in order to improve education services provision.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF EI Salvador contributes to the capacity building of the Ministry of Education by strengthening the management of reliable and timely statistics for schools and School Management Committees. Although the education sector has made efforts to secure solid information systems, for the schools and their respective committees it is still a challenge to have access to information for decision-making. At present, schools are caught up in complex administrative processes which force principals and teachers to spend a great deal of time generating information, which do not necessarily contribute to improve the quality of education or keeping students in school. The drop-out rate in the country is extremely high; according to the Ministry of Education, an average of 84,000 students dropped out yearly between 2009 and 2014.

The Ministry of Education has a SAE that brings together information about enrolled students, but does not identify students at risk of dropping out, either provides any guidance to parents about schools that would be able to accept students who need to be transferred to another school.

Based on the above, UNICEF EI Salvador proposed to the Ministry of Education to incorporate into the SAE an 'early warning subsystem' that would identify students at risk of dropping out of school. To achieve that, UNICEF EI Salvador partnered with Mexico's Education Project Foundation, which has developed and implemented this tool in the state of Puebla with evidence of success. To date, three missions to EI Salvador have been carried out to assess the situation of information management in schools and the Ministry of Education's National Planning Department, as well as to provide advisory for the establishment of an ad-hoc school administration unit to the SAE inside this department. As a result of this collaboration, the subsystem's architecture, users and products have been defined, and the prototypes (screens) have been examined and designed.

The subsystem's design and development entails adjusting the SAE's platform towards a national database of students with new elements in the design, functionality and architecture

that would allow: i) comparison of indicators of each school; ii) learning about the attendance and academic performance of each student; iii) identifying students older than the ideal age for their grade; iv) identifying students receiving threats of violence; v) identifying students dealing with pregnancy or motherhood; vi) combining the information indicated above to obtain a list of students showing conditions of potentially dropping out of school; and vii) obtaining the lists of students who dropped out of school and their respective reasons.

With these adjustments to the SAE, it is expected that management in schools will also improve, because the subsystem would allow the electronic certification and accreditation of each student; it would also make available to parents academic information about their children on electronic platforms.

Development of the subsystem, implementation and validation will start in 2017. The main challenges are the establishment of the School Administration Unit by the Ministry of Education, which would be in charge of the subsystem's maintenance, the timely management of information at the school level and the Ministry of Education's adequate and timely response to take care of the identified children.

OUTPUT 4: The Ministry of Education, RESALDE and civil society have increased capacity and evidence for advocating for increased investment in public education.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Over the past decade, the average investment in education in El Salvador has amounted to 3.14 per cent of gross domestic product and accounted for 16.61 per cent of public spending; these percentages are far below the average in Latin America. It is expected that, by 2017, this situation could worsen because of the slowdown in the economy, with the resulting decline in fiscal revenues and the low priority given to education.

UNICEF El Salvador has been a pioneer organization in the advocacy for increasing investment of education in El Salvador, partnering with thinktanks, RESALDE and the Ministry of Education itself, to promote actions and gather evidence to make it possible to substantiate the call for increasing the budget for education to 6 per cent of gross domestic product, as well as enacting the 'Special law for funding education'.

During the year, UNICEF El-Salvador supported the following initiatives to promote an increase in investment for education:

- As leader of the Technical Secretariat of CONED, UNICEF El-Salvador contributed to the production, launch and funding of PESE. PESE includes a coordinated and integral proposal to address 6 challenges and 104 priority actions to tackle the most pressing problems in education, whose resolution would mean not only a major stride forward in terms of realizing the right of children and adolescents to education but would also have a direct impact on reducing the high levels of violence and criminality afflicting the country. PESE has a 10-year time frame, and costs about US\$12.57 billion – that is, an annual investment of US\$1.25 billion in addition to the resources that are already being invested in education.
- Support to the 6 Per Cent Yes for Education campaign spearheaded by RESALDE for the purpose of mobilizing and raising awareness of society about the right to education and the urgency to increase government investment for the sector, as well as securing argumentative information to substantiate the need for the progressive increase in investment and the call for enactment of the 'Special law for funding education, by means of two position papers ("Education for All: 2030 – Overview and new

commitments' and '2030: Identifying funding sources'). The campaign, with technical support from UNICEF EI-Salvador, includes a series of printed and audio-visual materials to support various activities that take place every sixth day of every month, with reference to the 6 per cent, in order to advocate for the submission and adoption of the special law. The campaign also includes raising the awareness of trade unions, universities, mayor's offices, students, political parties, etc., on the right to education. It is also present on social networks such as Facebook Fanpage and Twitter, and has been visited by more than 264,000 persons between September 2015 and November 2106 (240,090 visits to the Facebook FanPage and 24,167 readers of tweets), leading to new alliances on the issue.

OUTCOME 3: By 2020, children, particularly those aged 0–5, and pregnant women have increased access to quality health and nutrition services, healthy lifestyles and rearing practices that allow children to fully develop.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF work in this first year of the Cooperation Programme (2016–2020), was focused on the following critical issues and population groups: neonatal health, women in reproductive health, children with disabilities, self-care and reproductive health.

Overall, 2016 was a challenging year for the health of children and women due mainly to the ongoing drought, which is now on its fifth consecutive year, outbreaks of endemic diseases such as diarrhoea, and the emergence of Chikungunya and Zika virus, which constitute a dangerous threat, especially for women of reproductive age, and particularly pregnant women. The country is still expecting to grasp and understand the full consequences and impact of the Zika outbreak, especially on newborns.

UNICEF, as a member of the Neonatal Alliance, continues its support and advocacy to put health on the top of the agenda and to establish a national action plan to prevent and reduce neonatal deaths and congenital malformations.

In April 2016, the Civil Protection System issued an alert caused by the shortages in water supply in the Greater San Salvador, which, together with the inappropriate water storage in households, increased the number of the *aedes aegyptis* mosquito breeding (vector of Zika, dengue and Chikungunya). As a result of this situation, during 2016, UNICEF worked closely with the National Sub-Commission on WASH and the Ministry of Health, advocating and providing technical assistance to update the guidelines to manage vector control, antenatal care, and particularly the diagnosis of congenital malformations in an effort to enhance the prevention and the response to Zika. As a result, 475 health workers improved their technical skills for the diagnosis and the clinic care of newborns and women, through a series of trainings.

UNICEF EI Salvador, in partnerships with the Neonatal Alliance and the National Sub-Commission on WASH, supported 14 municipalities from Cabañas, Chalatenango, Cuscatlán, and San Salvador, where the highest rate of the Zika virus was reported, through the design and implementation of an integral response plan. The plan includes actions on communication for development, training and cleaning in communities and school centres. As a result of this intervention, more than 50,000 children, women and their families received appropriate and timely information about the symptoms and consequences of Zika. Based on this experience, a wider and comprehensive intervention was designed during 2016 and will be implemented in 2017 with financial support from USAID.

Due to the challenging situation described above, there is an urgency for national authorities to accelerate health reform, aimed at bringing health services closer to communities and families. One of the main priorities of UNICEF El Salvador for the cycle is to support this process.

Under the Joint Programme on Food Security and Nutrition (World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, PAHO and UNICEF), the National Council on Food Security and Nutrition has been strengthened and with the technical support of UNICEF is initiating the update of the National Policy on Food Security and Nutrition. Advocating for the approval of a national law will be a priority in 2017. In addition to this, responding to a request from the Ministry of Health, UNICEF provided technical assistance to CONALAM to develop a national plan in order to increase exclusive breastfeeding and control of the use of breast-milk substitutes. The plan will be launched in January 2017.

Through a recently signed Programme Cooperation Agreement with Fundación Inocencia, UNICEF will be implementing an innovative strategy using technology (apps) for children to elaborate a life plan for their future, including educational and work aspirations at the same time as they are developing their life skills. Some 242 HIV-infected pre-adolescents and adolescents (12–24 years old) and 144 children (under 12 years old) attended by the Centre of Excellence for Children with Immunodeficiency, from the Hospital Bloom, (first-level facility for children), will participate in this initiative starting in January 2017.

UNICEF is also supporting the strengthening of national capacities to improve the emergency response, particularly in the preparedness phase. During 2016, two pre-positioning of basic WASH supplies were distributed (mosquito nets, water tanks) by the Ministry of Health since the outbreak of Zika cases in early 2016, contributing to the reduction of mosquito bite transmission and the improvement of water storage for 1,000 families. With technical support from UNICEF, civil protection improved the preparedness of departmental, municipal and community commissions to respond in an emergency situation through the design and distribution at the national level of 150,000 toolkits (a set of quick guides to communities and families for preparedness). These toolkits were developed with an innovative approach for promoting local readiness and increase response capabilities to protect the rights of children in emergencies.

OUTPUT 1: The Ministry of Health implements a validated strategy for the enhancement and scaling up of cost-efficient maternal and child health (MCH) models.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

During the first year of this cooperation programme, considering the Zika outbreak and the consequences on newborns, UNICEF El Salvador advocated to raise and give visibility on the issue of congenital malformations among health authorities. This context created the opportunity to open the discussion for the strengthening of information systems, increase the diagnostic capacities, and improve the maternal and child health attention model.

The Ministry of Health, with support from PAHO and UNICEF El Salvador, contributed to the updating of the technical guidelines to identify and treat Zika symptoms, improving diagnostic capacities. Some 475 health workers in the 14 most affected municipalities from Cabañas, Chalatenango, Cuscatlán and San Salvador were trained in this effect. However this is insufficient to cover the country's needs. This support will continue during 2017, as this is a major challenge for the Ministry of Health in the coming years.

OUTPUT 2: Authorities in selected sub-national areas with high levels of neonatal mortality and chronic malnutrition utilize validated coordinating tools to guarantee access of children to integral and quality health and nutrition services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2016, under the Joint Programme on Food Security and Nutrition implemented with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Food Programme and PAHO/World Health Organization, UNICEF El Salvador focused on improving counselling and home visits in three municipalities of Chalatenango (Arcatao, Las Vueltas and Nueva Trinidad), and promoted coordination mechanisms between local authorities (municipalities) and the Ministry of Health to identify and treat cases of moderate and severe acute malnutrition and support families. In addition, 170 health workers (128 women and 42 men) were trained on counselling to strengthen the quality of services at the local level.

Additionally, the fieldwork of two key studies was completed. These studies will provide updated information on the nutrition of children and women, and, once finalized, evidence will be available and will be key for the updating of the National Policy on Food Security and Nutrition and for the review of the tools and technical guidelines to improve the quality of services of the nutrition sector. At the local level, the studies will provide data to formulate recommendations to enhance coordination among authorities, communities and families to maintain continuous surveillance and facilitate access to health and nutrition services for children and women.

With technical assistance from UNICEF El Salvador, the Ministry of Health completed the National Plan on Breastfeeding. The country will count with a key strategic guideline for upcoming years to increase exclusive breastfeeding and regulate the use of breast-milk substitutes. UNICEF El Salvador, together with CONALAM, will contribute to the implementation during the current Country Programme Document cycle.

OUTPUT 3: The Government of El Salvador, CSOs and the private sector have access to information mechanisms to monitor bottlenecks on maternal and child health, and mobilize demand for quality public health and nutrition services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

During this first year of the Cooperation Programme (2016–2020), UNICEF El Salvador strengthened the partnership with the Neonatal Alliance and the National Sub-Commission on WASH. The Neonatal Alliance prioritized the following issues for the next three years: neonatal health, women in reproductive health, disabilities, self-care and reproductive health, with a community's engagement approach. The focus of the National Sub-Commission on WASH is resilience and humanitarian response. These partnerships opened opportunities for collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Education to increase the outreach of health interventions through a partnership strategy, particularly at the community level, and to advocate and support the health sector in the improvement of the quality of services.

UNICEF El Salvador was actively involved in the promotion and monitoring of the corporative initiative, A Promise Renewed. In El Salvador, UNICEF supported with technical assistance the Neonatal Alliance, for the humanization of birth during the Prematurity National Prevention Week held between 14 November and 19 November. UNICEF El Salvador also raised awareness among families, through local meetings, and communication materials such as radio jingles and diverse printed materials. About 50,000 individuals at the national level received appropriate and timely information on how to keep antenatal control and support premature newborns. UNICEF El Salvador also contributed to the celebration of the breastfeeding week, certifying 19 health centres from the National Health System as

Children- and Mother-Friendly Facilities, encouraging health workers to improve the quality of counselling and the monitoring of breastfeeding practices.

OUTPUT 4: By the end of 2020, national authorities and UNICEF El Salvador have strengthened capacities to prepare in response to an onset of emergencies and are applying resilience strategies directly with communities at the national level.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF El Salvador responded to two emergencies during 2016, one caused by the ongoing drought and another by the Zika outbreak.

In response to the prolonged drought over the past five years, the UNS received support from CERF in the amount of US\$2.71 million. From this, UNICEF El Salvador received US\$160,000, which was spent on providing care to children suffering from malnutrition or at risk of malnutrition in areas most hit by the drought.

As a result of UNICEF El-Salvador-supported interventions, 886 children aged 0–9 years were identified and provided with care (85 were suffering from severe acute malnutrition and 801 from risk of acute malnutrition). UNICEF El-Salvador also helped strengthen the capacity of seven hospitals in the three departments with supplies and training to treat the 85 identified cases of acute malnutrition. The remaining 801 children at risk of acute malnutrition (severe or moderate) were treated in the Ministry of Health's Community Health Units. These units received the supplies needed, such as ready-to-use therapeutic food, oral rehydration salts, ReSoMal (powder for the preparation of an oral rehydration solution) and children's mid-upper arm circumference; training was also provided to 298 health workers to improve identification of the affected population and the care services. Nutritional conditions were also monitored, and 14,501 children at risk of acute malnutrition were treated and monitored. At present, the Ministry of Health has the supplies and the trained staff needed to continue carrying out an active search and providing the community and hospital services required.

In January 2016, the Ministry of Health issued an epidemiological alert based on an international warning from PAHO about the consequences of Zika virus and announced preventive measures. Since the onset of the outbreak, 11,393 new suspected cases have been recorded, and of these cases 362 were pregnant women.

Since March 2016, 50,000 children and their parents from 14 municipalities from the departments of Cabañas, Chalatenango, Cuscatlán and San Salvador, departments with the highest rate of incidence for Zika, received information (radio spots and printed messages) and were mobilized to prevent the illness and promote the suitable management of clear water, wastewater and water fit for human consumption. In addition, at least 1,000 pregnant women suspected of being infected with Zika virus continued receiving prenatal check-ups. In 2017, with support from USAID, efforts will be expanded to raise community's awareness and commitment to identify and prevent Zika and other key determinants of health, including the environment, violence and access to health-care services, through a workplan agreed upon and coordinated with other national institutions and NGOs. UNICEF El-Salvador is also facilitating coordination with other institutions contributing to the response.

With support from the Government of Japan, 784 children in Child Welfare Centres and 116 adolescents confined in 4 Social Integration Centres benefited from better hygienic conditions. The 167 technicians from ISNA working in these centres received training, tools and supplies to prevent the Zika virus. Likewise, 770 adolescents on probation participated

in community awareness-raising activities on Zika.

OUTCOME 4: By 2020, children and adolescents who face multiple deprivations have increased access to pertinent, effective and integrated social protection systems that are properly funded, monitored and evaluated.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

During 2016, the first year of the current cooperation cycle, UNICEF El Salvador started making progress for the formulation of a new Child-Centred Social Policy. A situational analysis based on the theory of change was elaborated, a general strategy was designed and several new partnerships were developed.

The strategy on knowledge generation was design to provide the required inputs for the development of the policy mentioned above and be used for raising awareness and advocating for the social inclusion of the most vulnerable children. The four main topics prioritized in 2016 were: multidimensional poverty, public investment in children, perceptions of children on poverty and the family structure in El Salvador.

UNICEF El Salvador has used the evidence and the results of available analysis to advocate for a change in the paradigm of the public policies conceptualization, mainly in social policies. As such, the Child-Centred Social Policy proposal will identify key interventions in the short, medium and long term, according to the life cycle, and spell out the role of duty bearers such as family, state, local governments, NGOs and private sectors.

UNICEF El Salvador also started discussions with its partners on the role of institutions or CSOs and their responsibility on the implementation of social programmes in order to reach consensus and ownership from the start. Although, the Government will lead the development of this policy, UNICEF El Salvador will ensure that throughout the process this is done in collaboration with other social service providers, including local governments, families, CSOs and the private sector.

To kick off this effort, in 2016 UNICEF El Salvador identified key partners and developed strategic alliance with the Foundation for Economic and Social Development (FUSADES), an influential private foundation working on social and economic development, to identify the needs for family support as one of the central policy pillars. In addition, UNICEF El Salvador is implementing a project with two CSOs working closely with Salvadoran children: TECHO El Salvador to gather information on children's perceptions of their realities and promote their meaningful participation in matters that affect them, and Whole Child International to build a theoretical foundation for child-specific multidimensional poverty measurement. Both partnerships will eventually contribute to the development of a stronger monitoring and early warning system of deprivations in children.

Furthermore, UNICEF El Salvador has built a partnership with ESEN, a leading academic institution, to compile information on social programmes offered by NGOs and foundations. This information will contribute to improving the Government's coordination capacity and efficiency of social programmes.

UNICEF El Salvador is supporting the Technical and Planning Secretariat of the President's Office (STPP), a key political actor in this process, for the design and implementation of a registration platform covering the entire life cycle. This platform will not only record identity documents, but will also track all historical records of social service provision (in health and education, among other sectors).

Also, because of previously established partnerships, the Ministry of the Economy through Directorate General of Statistics and Census (DIGESTYC), in collaboration with UNICEF, developed a dashboard to monitor over time main indicators related to children's situations. This dashboard is accessible online to the general public. Moreover, ISNA completed the quality index to evaluate residential care programmes and is currently developing software to measure this quality index in partnership with the Central American University Jose Simeon Cañas. Finally, the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, with technical support from UNICEF, developed a road map for including the provision of integrated care for persons with disabilities into national emergency protocols.

In 2017, UNICEF El Salvador will continue to strengthen alliances with political actors. The focus will be on promoting dialogues considering the timeline of the municipal, legislative and presidential elections of 2018 and 2019, ensuring that the proposed Child-Centred Social Policy is included in the country's next five-year development plan and other key development plans.

OUTPUT 1: Government institutions related to children's social protection systems use management tools for appropriate inter-sectoral coordination to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the public policy.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

During the first year of the cooperation cycle, UNICEF El Salvador sought to define specific policy pillars and facilitated coordination among government institutions to materialise the Child-Centred Social Policy. In 2016, as the first step towards the achievement of this goal, UNICEF El Salvador started a research initiative to increase understanding of the historical evolution of social policies for children and families in El Salvador and the key interventions targeting children in the social and political context, the major service providers, including state, family and market, and the resources allocated. The results of this analysis will be available during the first quarter of next year.

UNICEF El Salvador, together with FUSADES, is designing the key pillar on integrated family policy. A research project is ongoing, aiming to understand the role played by Salvadoran families in child care at present, as well as identifying major obstacles for caregivers and the types of public assistance required. To support this work, a quantitative analysis will also be elaborated in 2017 using the latest statistical data, including the National Health Survey based on MICS.

OUTPUT 2: Government institutions implement comprehensive and specialized mechanisms to monitor the situation of children and adolescents, and evaluate the impacts of public policy.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

To improve the capacity of the Government to generate and disseminate data about the situation of children and adolescents, UNICEF El Salvador supported the Ministry of the Economy-DIGESTYC to develop and implement a virtual space to publish key indicators about children using the software DevInfo. The dashboard includes time series (up to five years) for main indicators on household environment, survival, nutrition, health, protection, poverty, school attainment, literacy, and education enrolment rates. DIGESTYC installed the dashboard at the link: <<http://informes.digestyc.gob.sv/devinfo/elsalvador>>. For the next year, DIGESTYC has planned trainings of administrators and users, and the expansion of the platform to other indicators related with children, youth and gender.

In December, the Ministry of Health and the National Health Institute, in coordination with UNICEF El Salvador, presented the National Health Survey developed with UNICEF El Salvador methodology of MICS. This is the first time the survey was carried out in El Salvador. The process was fully owned by the Government and plans are already under way to conduct a second round in 2019.

The National Council for Persons with Disabilities, in agreement with the Office of National Civil Protection and with UNICEF El Salvador technical support, completed the road map to integrate disabilities issues into emergency processes.

Also, ISNA, with UNICEF El Salvador technical support, completed the Index to measure the quality of residential care programmes. The index was built based on the national quality standards for children's and adolescents' programmes developed by ISNA, and rates residential care programmes in four categories (from class A to class D), based on their compliance with these standards. Also, as part of this system and as a result of a partnership with the Universidad Centro Americana, ISNA completed the design of the online system to measure this index. Currently, a second phase of the collaboration with the university is in progress to complete the online application to measure the index.

In relation to multidimensional poverty measurement, with the aim of building a theoretical foundation of the measurement, UNICEF El Salvador developed a partnership with Whole Child International, a global NGO with academic and practical expertise on ECD. In 2016, UNICEF and Whole Child International made initial progress and identified the development milestones of children and adolescents. Also, UNICEF El Salvador took the first step to develop another alliance with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, respected institution in the field. The partnership will be formalized in 2017 and will start with the design of the measurement, based on the findings of the research with Whole Child International.

Regarding child participation, UNICEF El Salvador built an alliance with TECHO El Salvador to conduct an in-depth study and improve understanding of children's perspectives in relation to their development and well-being. As part of the study, 40 focus groups, reaching more than 250 children, adolescents and their families living in different communities, were conducted to obtain this information. The results are currently being analysed and will be published early next year.

OUTPUT 3: Government institutions have mechanisms to monitor and analyse the level and quality of public investment in children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Despite the previous efforts made by UNICEF El Salvador and its partners to measure public social spending on children, the question still remains as to how much and what types of social support are provided for children by non-governmental institutions and private foundations. To respond to this challenge, UNICEF El Salvador is contributing to make visible organizations and programmes favouring children, as their investment has been ignored or underestimated in policymaking.

In 2016, UNICEF El Salvador strengthened a partnership with ESEN to map and systematize all organizations and main programmes supporting children and adolescents. During 2017, the most relevant organizations and programmes for children will be identified and key information about their work will be made widely available to policymakers. The information will focus on the following four aspects: 1) intervention category and target

population; 2) strategic partnership and fund-raising; 3) planning, organizing and implementation capacities; and 4) monitoring and evaluation.

UNICEF El Salvador is engaged in an ongoing effort to analyse in-depth the cost of having a palliative-oriented social policy, by applying a methodology employed by the Early Intervention Foundation in the United Kingdom. The evidence that this measurement provides will be very useful for advocacy purposes, particularly in high-level political dialogues. UNICEF El Salvador is also conducting a quantitative analysis to identify inter-generational inequality in public debts. The analysis aimed at evidencing the impact of the rollover of public loans on the young population at present, as they will have to assume an important amount of debt in the future, much more than the social spending benefits they have received during childhood. The results of these two studies will be available in early 2017 and will be used for public advocacy with policymakers and influencers.

OUTPUT 4: CSOs have tools and mechanisms to access data and information about programmes and investments in children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF El Salvador and the STPP have agreed to continue to work together to further strengthen social protection mechanisms for Salvadoran children.

In 2016, special emphasis was placed on the improvement of the child registration system. Even though 98.5 per cent of newborns are registered (according to MICS data), there are still challenges with the existing system. El Salvador does not count with an integrated mechanism which provides identification during the entire life cycle and tracks the provision of social services at both national and municipal levels. Currently, several governmental organizations have their own registration data; however, these databases are not shared nor coordinated among institutions. In addition, another identification document, called the Unique Identity Document (Documento Único de Identidad) is provided after reaching 18 years of age, but it is not linked with the public registration database.

To address these challenges, UNICEF El Salvador, in close collaboration with the STPP and National Registry of Natural Persons, started a process to develop an integrated registration system from birth to adulthood and drafted a proposal for the development of a coordinated information platform, and the formulation and its implementation with relevant public institutions. In 2016, UNICEF El Salvador and its partner focused on the design of a research initiative to analyse existing studies as well as best practices of pioneering countries, followed by the identification of requirements and challenges in introducing the new registration system in El Salvador. Consultations with relevant public institutions at the national and local levels will be conducted next year and, based on the results of this analysis, a detailed proposal for the information platform will be elaborated, taking into account legal, political, institutional, technological and financial issues. This is a long-term process and testing of the new system is expected to start at the municipal level in 2018.

Evaluation and research

Title	Sequence number	Type of report
Encuesta Nacional de Salud (National Health Survey)	2016/004	Survey
2030: Identifying Funding Sources for Education	2016/003	Study
Education for all: 2030 evolution and new commitments	2016/002	Study
Report on the progress towards the implementation and functioning of the national comprehensive protection system for children and adolescents	2016/001	Evaluation

Other publications

Title
Diagnosis on the Situation of Municipalities in El Salvador to Respond to Children, Adolescents and other Vulnerable Sectors, including Financing Alternatives for Implementation of LEPINA
El Salvador Educated Plan
Technical Guide for the pre-diagnosis of seismic risk in buildings and Instruction manual to fill out the technical guide
Local Plan for Civil Protection, Disaster Prevention and Mitigation
Family Emergency Plan Guidelines
2030: Identification of funding sources for education
Education for all: 2030 – Balance and new commitments
Safe Internet/Internet Segura
National Health's Survey/Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) 2014
Convention on the Rights of the Child

Lessons learned

Document type/category	Title
Innovation	Child Protection Surveillance and Warning System at the local level in El Salvador