

## El Salvador

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### Executive summary

In 2017, UNICEF El Salvador continued to successfully position itself as a policy adviser to the Government on issues affecting children and build strong alliances with partners to advance children's rights.

A major highlight in 2017 was the Legislative Assembly's unanimous vote to prohibit child marriage. The reform was the result of close collaboration between UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN Women. In an effort to improve the public voice of children and raise awareness on the impact of early marriage and sexual violence towards girls, the Country Office took advantage of its social media platforms and successfully used the U-Report platform to bring children's voices to the Legislative Assembly and support the call for the prohibition of child marriage.

Another notable achievement was the renewed commitment of the Ministry of Education (MINED) to address school violence and school dropout. UNICEF El Salvador supported MINED during the testing of an innovative programme of flexible education modalities targeting children at risk of dropping out of or having dropped out of school. In addition, the Country Office teamed up with Plan International to replicate a model for retention and insertion of out-of-school children under the Let's Make the School Ours framework, piloted in one municipality with MINED. Implementation of the model allowed dissemination of lessons learned and knowledge products in 16 additional municipalities, which will be the focus of interventions in 2018. Significant efforts were put into scaling-up the strategy of bringing early childhood development (ECD) services closer to families, leading to considerable increases in the number of families and young children receiving ECD services. The strategy also led to mayors joining the Pact for ECD, in which mayors committed themselves to give priority to ECD in their municipal plans, allocate funds, and recruit community volunteers to run ECD centres.

In order to address the multidimensional causes of violence, the Country Office developed a multisectoral framework on violence prevention, which led to improved coordination between sectors and strengthened alliances with local governments. A similar framework was developed to address the underlying causes that influence irregular migration of children. Implementation of the framework on migration helped improve the availability of child protection services and the capacity of the child protection workforce at the local level to identify repatriated children and refer them to the appropriate services, as well as expand the number of partners working on migration.

In 2017, UNICEF El Salvador assumed leadership of the network of partners for the Zika virus response. This role positioned UNICEF El Salvador as the main reference for protection and attention of children affected by Zika and other congenital anomalies, as well as of children with disabilities, and led to strengthened collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MINSAL) and other organizations involved in the Zika response. Progress in generating stronger resilience resulted in the Government's decision to initiate the development of the Index for Risk Management

Model (INFORM). Implementation of INFORM, including the active participation of more than nine government institutions, was the result of the joint effort between UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

There was a notable diversification and expansion of partnerships in 2017. The Country Office signed a partnership with New York University's specialized centre, Global TIES for Children, to support its advocacy for implementation of successful early childhood interventions and use the opportunity to promote the use of existing delivery platforms to advance early childhood services at the local level.

Recognizing the power of music for healing and reconciliation and its efficiency in creating bridges between communities divided by violence, UNICEF El Salvador, in collaboration with MINED, began a partnership with Musicians without Borders with the view of bringing their expertise to El Salvador. In the same vein, an innovative partnership was forged with the cultural association Azoro to raise awareness of children's rights through fine art, and for the production of a theatrical play titled 'If You Were Not Born', which was performed in various municipalities. The play, which reached more than 2,000 children and adults, helped stimulate debates about issues affecting children and ways to address them, and also helped foster positive behaviours towards children.

Shortfalls included the postponement of the development of an Action Plan to follow-up on the recommendations of the evaluation of the Child Protection System, conducted in 2016, and slow progress in the implementation of a special measure on juvenile justice. The measure was announced by the President of the Republic in the context of the 25th anniversary of the Peace Accords, and argued for better protection to adolescents in conflict with the law, in particular those deprived of liberty.

## Humanitarian assistance

UNICEF El Salvador did not have to respond to an emergency during 2017. Nevertheless, it continued to strengthen internal and external capacities to prepare and respond to humanitarian situations.

In 2017, with support from the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office, the Country Office enhanced its capacities related to emergency preparedness and response. A training and simulation were held allowing all staff to update their knowledge on the internal policies and procedures to prepare and respond to emergencies. The Country Humanitarian Team and United Nations Emergency Technical Team successfully collaborated to improve their capacities for joint emergency preparedness and response, with training activities and a simulation attended by 29 key staff of the United Nations system, national and international organizations and government institutions.

Members of the sectoral emergency preparedness and response coordination groups (education, health, shelter, protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)) were trained in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action, and are better prepared to integrate actions for the prevention and mitigation of gender-based violence in emergency humanitarian response. The WASH coordination group, comprising 19 institutions, undertook a mapping of the preparedness and response capacities of each institution.

The 2018–2021 Strategic Plan to implement the roadmap of the Central American standards for providing services, protection and inclusion to persons with disabilities in emergencies was completed with UNICEF technical and financial support, under the leadership of the National Council for Persons with Disability (CONAIPD) and the Directorate General for Civil Protection.

In addition, UNICEF, UNDP and OCHA joined forces to support the country in its adaptation of INFORM in El Salvador, with the support of the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID) and the Office of Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection of the European Union (ECHO). This effort, which is being chaired by the Directorate General for Civil Protection, with the involvement of nine other governmental institutions, will be consolidated in 2018.

### Emerging areas of importance

**In the context of migration**, El Salvador is a sending country. However, official data are only available for returnees. From January to October 2017, 2,066 children were repatriated, showing a 71 per cent decline compared with 2016. One out of four of these children indicated that gang-related or gender-based violence was the main reason for migration.

UNICEF El Salvador started implementing an innovative approach in five municipalities (Ciudad Delgado, San Marcos, San Martín, Santo Tomás and Soyapango) characterized by high levels of violence and a high percentage of child migration. The approach seeks to address some of the underlying causes of migration in children, particularly violence and insecurity, lack of opportunities and limited access to such basic services as education.

The strategy, which includes the development of an innovative Child Protection Surveillance and Warning System – titled Si Protejo (Yes I Protect) – for the identification, attention, referral and monitoring of cases of children with protection needs, led to enhanced collaboration with the only existing migrant reception centre (La Chacra) to register all cases of child returnees and refer them automatically to the existing local specialized protection and reintegration services, including legal assistance and psychosocial support. In addition, together with MINED and the municipalities, flexible education modalities and vocational training opportunities are being developed for children at risk of migrating and returnees. The municipalities are also recuperating public spaces to transform them into safe and protective environments to strengthen resilience and ties with their communities. In 2017, more than 3,000 children participated in artistic and sports activities in these recuperated areas.

At the national level, UNICEF El Salvador entered into a partnership with the Human Rights Institute of Jose Simeon Cañas University to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to families forced to leave the country due to violence. In 2017, 45 people from 9 family groups received legal and economic support.

On the occasion of the Regional Conference on Migration in El Salvador, UNICEF used the opportunity to advocate for the rights of migrant children and raise awareness regarding their situation through the performance of a theatre play, 'My Right to a Dream', together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Organization for Migration, and with support from the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office.

**Early childhood development.** To address the low percentage of children aged under 4 years attending ECD programmes, a specific output on ECD was incorporated into the Country Programme Document to support the Government in broadening access to services, and in prioritizing coordination and the orientation of families to ensure decent, respectful, inclusive

and healthy child-raising. Interventions under this output included combating social norms and cultural patterns that have historically promoted violence in the family and some abusive child-rearing practices that are still legally accepted and culturally justified.

The implementation of the 'Territorialization' strategy continued under the leadership of MINED and the Salvadoran Institute for the Comprehensive Development of Children and Adolescents (ISNA), to increase coordinated and inclusive ECD coverage at the local level. The strategy demonstrated its efficiency and potential for scale-up. Nine institutions are implementing methodologies for the orientation of families in child-rearing practices bringing together municipalities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations and mobilizing community volunteers, positioning the issue of ECD at the forefront of national and local multi-sectoral coordination efforts.

UNICEF's role has also been essential to ensure that ECD appeared in the country's principal political and programmatic instruments. Indeed, the National Development Plan (PQD) and Plan for an Educated El Salvador (PESE) recognize early childhood as a priority and have set, among its goals, a 10 per cent increase in the coverage of services by 2019 for children ages 0–3 years (PQD) and universal coverage for children ages 0–3 years and 4–6 years by 2026 (PESE). The National Development, Protection and Social Inclusion Plan for 2014–2019 also addresses ECD as a strategy for the next five years, through coordinated interventions. More recently, the Mainstreaming Acceleration and Policy Support report of the United Nations system, which provides recommendations to the Government on the drivers to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, identified 'care for all' and the need to increase access to efficient and equitable public and private ECD services as accelerators for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNICEF El Salvador established a partnership with New York University's specialized centre, Global TIES for Children, to identify and propose successful ECD interventions adapted to the context in El Salvador.

## Summary notes and acronyms

ATPI	technical assistants for early childhood
CONAIPD	National Council for Persons with Disability
CONALAM	National Breastfeeding Commission
CONED	National Education Council
CONNA	National Council for Children and Adolescents
DFID	Department for International Development of the United Kingdom
ECD	early childhood development
ECHO	Office of Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection of the European Union
FUNDEMÁS	Business Foundation for Social Action
FUSADES	Salvadoran Foundation for Economic and Social Development
INFORM	Index for Risk Management
ISNA	Salvadoran Institute for the Comprehensive Development of Children and Adolescents
LEPINA	Law for the Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents
MICS	Multiple Indicators Cluster Surveys
MINED	Ministry of Education
MINSAL	Ministry of Health
NGO	non-governmental organization

OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PESE	Plan for an Educated El Salvador
PESS	Plan for a Safe El Salvador
REINSAL	Initial and Preschool Education Network of El Salvador
RESALDE	Salvadoran Network for the Right to Education
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SETEPLAN	Technical and Planning Secretariat of the President's Office
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene

## External communication and public advocacy

UNICEF El Salvador continued to strengthen its media presence, as it is considered a trusted reference issues related to children and adolescents, in particular child protection, education and ECD, in the country. In 2017, media coverage increased by 96 per cent.

In May 2017, U- Report was launched and to date, 13 surveys were conducted to give voice to children on different topics: protection, Zika, migration, breastfeeding, and sexual and reproductive health. It was particularly effective to bring the opinion of children on child marriage to the Legislative Assembly and media supporting the call for the prohibition of child marriage. In total, 2,121 U-Reporters were registered as of 12 December 2017, with a 60 per cent response rate.

Regarding social media, UNICEF El Salvador has continued a steady growth thanks to national, regional and global campaigns. Between January and November 2017, Facebook showed a 35 per cent growth, Twitter 86 per cent and Instagram 50 per cent. Some of the social media campaigns which reached larger audiences this year were #SuperPapa (#SuperDad); #LaPrimeraInfanciaImporta (#EarlyMomentsMater); #NoalMatrimonioInfantil and #NiñasnoEsposas (#EndChildMarriage); and #DiaMundialdelosNiños (#WorldChildrensDay).

For World Children's Day, UNICEF El Salvador joined the global campaign #Childrentakeover involving the President of the Republic, more than nine public institutions and the private sector. On 20 November 2017, Salvadoran children 'took over' key institutions and services as the President's Office, three major media stations, an advertising agency and sports facilities.

To support regional advocacy efforts regarding the protection of the rights of migrant children, UNICEF El Salvador supported the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office on the performance of the play 'My Right to a Dream' at the Vice-Ministerial Meeting of the Regional Conference on Migration celebrated in El Salvador in November.

The Country Office supported the emergency response after the earthquakes in Mexico with the deployment of a communications specialist who assisted UNICEF Mexico in communication, communication for development and fundraising activities.

## Identification and promotion of innovation

In August 2017, the Legislative Assembly unanimously voted to prohibit child marriage. This reform was the result of social mobilization and collaboration between UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women. To promote children's participation, UNICEF El Salvador launched U-Report in May to give public voice to children and to raise awareness. A survey was designed and published to

ask for opinions and actions that children considered necessary to eradicate child marriage. Some 70 per cent of surveyed U-Reporters stated that they know a girl who is either married, pregnant or has a child; 90 per cent expressed their rejection to early unions or to girls becoming mothers at an early age; and 79 per cent associated such practices to violation of children's and adolescents' rights. The survey results were published in interactive platforms, on social networks, and by mainstream media, and were also submitted to legislators to be used as evidence.

U-Report proved to be an effective and innovative tool as part of the advocacy strategy that enabled children's voices to be heard on major legislative issues that affect them.

Among other innovations in 2017 was the implementation of the I Am Music initiative in partnership with Musicians without Borders, MINED and community art and culture centres. This partnership was based on the recognition of the power of music to heal and contribute to peaceful coexistence and its effectiveness in reconciling communities divided by violence, as well as MINED's commitment under the Plan for a Safe El Salvador (PESS) and PESE to improve the quality of and diversify educational teaching using art and culture to prevent violence.

The Country Office also started designing the Yes I Protect system for the identification, provision of services, referral and monitoring of cases of children in need of protection to be used at the municipal level. The platform is expected to be operational in 2018.

### **Human rights-based approach to cooperation**

UNICEF El Salvador's Country Programme Document embodies the equity approach and the human rights-based approach in all its work. In follow-up to the recommendations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and thanks to the social mobilization and the advocacy of UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA, the Legislative Assembly unanimously prohibited child marriage by law, with no exceptions. UNICEF El Salvador contributed to ensuring that children's voices were heard, using innovative participation tools such as U-Report.

Joint advocacy with UNFPA and UN Women also resulted in El Salvador being selected to participate in the Regional United Nations Joint Programme to eliminate child marriage and early unions in Latin America and the Caribbean. As part of the strengthening of the National Child Protection System, UNICEF supported the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONNA) in drafting a proposal to reform the administrative and judicial procedures in the Law for the Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents (LEPINA) to remove the bottlenecks identified in the procedures of the Protection Boards and the Specialized Juvenile Courts. The proposal, which will be submitted by CONNA to the Legislative Assembly after final revision, will facilitate children's access to justice.

UNICEF El Salvador also assisted the Attorney General's Office with the elaboration of a protocol to provide legal and psychosocial support to victims of crime, with an emphasis on children, adolescents, women and other vulnerable population groups, to improve the quality of services provided to victims in an attempt to reduce re-victimization. The protocol included proposals of adolescents participating in consultations on how to eliminate impunity in sex crimes.

The Country Office issued technical opinions about preliminary draft regional laws and amendments to national legislation on school bullying, early childhood, child day-care centres,

corporal punishment, and attention and protection of migrant children to ensure mainstreaming of the human rights-based approach and harmonization with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This year, thanks to advocacy by the United Nations system, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Rapporteur on Internal Displacement visited the country, and made recommendations on key issues, such as violence, migration, internal displacement, sexual and reproductive rights, and the situation of prisons.

In 2018, the Committee on the Rights of the Child will review El Salvador's fourth and fifth periodic reports to the Committee. The Country Office has started advocating so that key issues affecting children are taken into account during this process.

## Gender equality

The current Country Programme Document was designed with a gender approach in mind and in accordance with the UNICEF Gender Action Plan. While child marriage was prohibited with no exceptions in El Salvador, negative cultural practices against girls persist, including forced early unions, leading to early pregnancy, school dropout and vulnerabilities to domestic violence. These elements are addressed by the Country Programme Document and are priorities for the Joint Regional Programme to Eliminate Child Marriage and Early Unions with UN Women and UNFPA, which El Salvador is part of.

Together with Oxfam, the Country Office continued to implement its strategy to prevent gender-based violence in 28 schools in 2017. Some 617 children were trained in "new femininities" and "new masculinities", early pregnancy and responsible parenthood, replicating the skills learned to another 2,100 children. Mechanisms to identify, report and monitor gender-based violence were created and 73 victims of sexual abuse received psychosocial support. In addition, a proposal to eradicate impunity to sexual crimes was elaborated and submitted to the national authorities on the commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child.

Members of the sectoral emergency preparedness and response coordination groups (education, health, shelters, protection, and WASH) were trained in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's 'Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action', and are better prepared to integrate strategies to prevent gender-based violence in emergency responses. Promoting gender-responsive adolescent health was addressed by incorporating comprehensive sexual education into the ECD curriculum and by initiating the elaboration of methodological handbooks for teachers and students of Grades 8 and 9. As part of the response to the Zika virus, national partners were trained on planning and 7,940 adolescents were trained on sexuality with a gender perspective.

In addition, progress was made to strengthen a gender-based approach in ECD, promoting the participation of men in the upbringing of their children, and training caregivers on gender. Children participating in school insertion and retention activities and adolescents living with HIV were also trained on gender, empowerment and development of life projects. UNICEF supported La Cachada, a theatre company, in its performance of the play 'If You Were not Born', raising awareness on gender issues at the national level, and providing a platform for the actresses – women from marginal urban communities – to share their own experiences of violence, marginalization and exclusion.

## Environmental sustainability

In 2017, UNICEF El Salvador, with the support of the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office, initiated work to identify actions that can be promoted to adapt to and mitigate

the impacts of climate change in some key sectors, such as education and nutrition, and thereby contribute to the implementation of the National Plan for Climate Change. As first steps, awareness was raised about the specific impact of climate change on children and adolescents. These efforts will continue in 2018.

El Salvador has been selected as part of an initiative promoted and funded by the United Kingdom National Committee for UNICEF for high-disaster risk countries to promote disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. With the Country Office's support, the interventions to be implemented have been identified and will initiate in 2018.

Furthermore, UNICEF El Salvador promoted and supported awareness-raising activities around reforestation and restoration of territories degraded or affected by the impacts of climate change, planting 200 trees as part of World Environment Day celebrations in the municipality of Santo Tomás. The Country Office also participated in UNICEF's Climate Comic Contest global initiative, organizing a national workshop to raise awareness on the effects of climate change on children.

UNICEF El Salvador has taken measures to continue reducing the environmental footprint. During 2017, there was a more efficient use of paper and electricity as a result of the change to more efficient energy-saving lamps.

## Effective leadership

The country management team held nine meetings during 2017 with the participation of the Representative, Deputy Representative, officers and specialists, local staff association and operations to address management priorities: monitoring of management, enterprise risk management, programme and financial performance indicators, harmonized approach to cash transfers and direct cash transfers, 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 weekly programme meetings, under the leadership of the Deputy Representative.

An annual management plan was elaborated and approved by the country management team. Priorities were defined collectively based on the existing risks and resources. A mid-year review was conducted to revise progress. The terms of agreement, members of statutory committees and standard operating procedures were revised.

Vacant posts (child protection specialist, health, nutrition and emergencies officers) were filled. The recruitment process for a new operations officer is ongoing to strengthen the operations section.

The enterprise risk management plan is under constant review to reflect the increasing risks of natural disasters, proximity of elections, insecurity or availability of funds. 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 memorandum of understanding was signed with the World Food Programme to use their facilities in case UNICEF offices are not operational after an emergency.

The Country Office participated in a training and simulation in 2017, and in a national evacuation drill. Staff also participated in trainings facilitated by the United Nations Department

of Safety and Security in response to the continuing high rate of violence, a situation which has also affected negatively the monitoring and coordination of programmes at the local level.

Strengthening staff competencies was a priority in 2017. Training was undertaken in emergency response, coaching, ethics, gender, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, effective communication and emotional intelligence, prioritizing activities agreed upon based on results of the Global Staff Survey. The staff association fully implemented its workplan.

### Financial resources management

The country management team held monthly meetings 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 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. The financial performance indicators, including expenditure regular resources, other resources and other resources emergency expenditure and outstanding direct cash transfers were constantly monitored.

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

During 2017, the Country Office continued its efforts to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of operations and programme management. Savings and reductions of expenses were achieved in the use of photocopy paper by almost 75 per cent and energy as result of changes in energy-saving lamps. The joint efforts of operations and programmes resulted in a successful move to electronic banking, reducing the production of checks to a minimum. Information on vendors, consultants and implementing partners was updated successfully.

Throughout the year, five micro-assessments, 26 programmatic visits and 11 spot checks were conducted, and support was provided to implementing partners on how to fill in and present itemized cost estimates and funding authorization and certificate of expenditures (FACE) forms for requesting cash. Only two direct cash transfers were outstanding after nine months. All regular resources, other resources and other resources emergency grants expiring in 2016 were implemented on time, and no funds were unutilized.

### Fundraising and donor relations

EI Salvador is classified as a middle-income country, and it is increasingly difficult to raise funds. However, UNICEF EI Salvador was able to raise about 45 per cent of the expected other resources ceiling for the current cycle. The main bilateral other resources donors were Japan, the United Kingdom and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency; for other resources emergency the main donors were the United Kingdom, ECHO and United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The second phase of the response plan for ZIKA was approved by USAID with the support of the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office.

In 2017, the Country Office received support from the United Kingdom National Committee for UNICEF for climate change and from the 7: David Beckman Fund for violence prevention. Although EI Salvador is not a private fundraising and partnership (PFP) country, for the first time

in 2017, it received support from Millicom to install a helpline, and an agreement was signed with BAC for ECD. Different proposals were submitted – namely, on juvenile justice, violence prevention, health and nutrition, and education. Follow-up regarding these proposals will be a priority in 2018.

In addition, joint funding opportunities with other United Nations agencies were sought in 2017. A conceptual note was drafted for (ODS) Fund on food security, nutrition and resilience with the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and a joint proposal with UNDP and the International Organization for Migration regarding juvenile justice submitted to USAID. ECHO is currently supporting a joint initiative with UNDP and OCHA to adapt the INFORM model. Funds that were set aside for the protection of child migrants were received, as were thematic funds for child protection, education and social policies.

In 2017, UNICEF El Salvador submitted three donor reports on time. The majority were consolidated by the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office, which represented a challenge because not all parties involved had the same deadlines. Regular resources, other resources and other resources emergency funds were completely spent before the expiration of grants.

## Evaluation and research

In 2017, the Country Office conducted three evaluations: two in education, specifically on ECD and school reinsertion, and one on protection (currently in progress). The three evaluations were carried out by external parties, following United Nations Evaluation Group guidelines and ensuring the impartiality of the results. The results will be used to replicate and incorporate changes, based on evidence, to ongoing interventions.

The status of the three evaluations and their use are described below.

- Evaluation of the Triple E project: an evaluation was conducted to measure the project's impact in three areas: family rearing practices, children's development and local inter-institutional coordination. The main findings show that the interventions were effective in changing some rearing practices and in better preparing children for preschool. The results from this evaluation will be used to make adaptations to the strategy of territorialization, which is currently being implemented by MINED with technical support from UNICEF. The development of the management response is in progress.
- Midterm evaluation of the Let's Make the School Ours project: The objective was to assess progress towards the project's targets as well as identify lessons learned to be used during the next phase. The results will be shared with MINED to revise similar initiatives being implemented at the local level. This evaluation is being revised to ensure compliance with UNICEF standards.
- Midterm evaluation of the strategy to prevent violence at the local level: the objective is to measure the impact of each component in three municipalities and assess progress towards expected outputs and outcomes at the local level. The results will be used to adjust strategy implementation in current municipalities and make improvements before replication in new municipalities. The evaluation will be completed in 2018.

## Efficiency gains and cost savings

In 2017, negotiations with the landlord resulted in no increase in the rental costs of the office during 2017. There was a more efficient use of office supplies, especially paper for printing (75 per cent of savings) and electricity following implementation of the UNICEF green office policies and the change to more efficient lamps. Local and international travel was 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 lowest cost.

Some existing long-term agreements and contracts were once again shared with other United Nations agencies in 2017 – namely, graphic designers, information and communication technology and cleaning services. These long-term agreements have allowed other United Nations agencies to use the same terms, conditions and prices that were agreed upon for the service or supplier provided. This practice has resulted in gains and cost savings for the United Nations system.

## Supply management

Procurement on behalf of other offices, procurement services for implementing partners or construction services were not performed in 2017.

Fifteen laptops were procured by direct order through international long-term agreement with ATEA A/S, Denmark, for a total value of US\$22,872.86, and were received within the expected deadline. Another procurement of four additional laptops by the same modality is in progress, and will be received by January 2018.

UNICEF EI Salvador does not have a warehouse. Supplies were delivered in a timely manner to implementing partners in their warehouses. The implementing partners that received supplies from UNICEF included, among others, MINSAL, in order to strengthen the epidemiologic surveillance system: computers and software, tablets and office licences. Basic WASH materials were also purchased to be prepositioned to strengthen emergency preparedness for WASH. These consisted of basic supplies for extraction and distribution of potable water to be used in emergency situations. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action were printed and distributed to emergency response coordination groups and United Nations agencies.

<b>UNICEF EI Salvador 2017</b>	<b>Value of supplies received</b>
<b>Programme supplies</b>	25,737.67
<b>Operational supplies</b>	23,694.26
<b>Programme and operational Services</b>	323,394.53
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>372,826.46</b>

In 2017, UNICEF EI Salvador procured programme supplies for a total of: US\$25,737.67 and operational supplies for a total of US\$23,694.26; these were duly registered in the asset inventory. Services for programmes and operations were issued for a total of US\$323,394.53.

## Security for staff and premises

During 2017, the security situation continued to deteriorate; rates of homicides, gang-related violence and sexual crimes remained high. El Salvador is considered as one of the most dangerous countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. 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.

The security situation had a relatively severe impact on UNICEF operations and staff in 2017. Timing and relevance of missions in violent areas were closely monitored, and staff were discouraged to stay in the office after sunset.

The office is 100 percent compliant with Minimum Safety Standards and every staff member passed the basic security in the field and advanced security in the field courses. There is close coordination with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security for security clearances of all trips within the national territory, discipline in complying with security provisions, and time restrictions are required from all staff.

Although, the Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments course is not mandatory in El Salvador, it has been recommended to all staff.

The business continuity plan was revised accordingly and shared with all relevant staff members. The Country Office participated in a national simulation on evacuation. The security call chain was continuously updated and simulation calls were conducted during the year. All staff members have a radio and were trained in its correct use, and the Zello app was installed in all cell phones to contact the radio room without a radio.

In anticipation of a possible increase in the level of violence due to the 2018 elections, in early 2018, a security adviser will visit the Country Office to provide technical support and ensure that staff members are aware of risks and able to make informed decisions on implementing mitigating measures to lower potential risks to an acceptable level.

## Human resources

UNICEF El Salvador started 2017 with the new staff structure as per its Country Programme Management Plan, but some key posts became vacant during the year. In May, the health and nutrition officer move to another office. The job profile was reviewed to better reflect requirements of the post. The vacancy was filled in October. The child protection specialist retired in October. The recruitment of the new specialist started in August and ended in November.

New operations posts were approved by PBR: an operations officer, information and communication technology assistant and a human resources assistant to strengthen the operations area, and are currently under recruitment.

All recruitments had classified job profiles, and the selection processes adhered to UNICEF guidelines.

The Country Office completed all 2016 PER evaluations by February 2017, achieving 100 percent completion. All staff participated in a performance management workshop, delivered locally by the HQ Division of Human Resources, and an action plan was drafted, implemented

and regularly monitored. Open and regular conversations were held between supervisors and supervisees during the performance progress phase. All staff members were trained on leadership skills and supervisors were trained on coaching to enhance the working environment.

An action plan in response to the Global Staff Survey 2017 was elaborated and focused on three areas: office efficiency and effectiveness, standards of conduct and human resources reform. The plan was shared and uploaded to SharePoint, and implementation is in progress. The Country Office has two peer support volunteers. In addition, it has nominated a focal point on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and ethics.

In addition, 95 per cent of staff completed the HIV e-course; male condoms are available; medical insurance plans cover HIV expenses; and first aid and post-exposure prophylaxis starter kits are accessible to all staff.

Training in emergency preparedness and response (EPR) in line with the Core Commitments for Children was delivered to all staff. Also, 79 percent of staff completed the Core Commitments for Children online training, and all staff will have completed the training by the first semester of 2018.

The Country Office did not experience any emergencies in 2017.

### **Effective use of information and communication technology**

UNICEF El Salvador maintained an effective information and communications infrastructure throughout 2017, reaching better standards as a result of a change to the operating system Windows 10. During 2017, UNICEF El Salvador also procured new standard equipment to be able to migrate to the new operating system. The use of Office 365 has provided the office with a complete solution that gives users the ability to work at any time and from anywhere. In the event of a disaster, Office 365 is an important tool that allows access to information from any computer and for staff to work in groups sharing files. 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 UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean 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.

The Country Office did not develop open source software in the office. Radio telecommunications in emergency situations is under the responsibility of the United Nations Department of Safety and Security for all United Nations agencies in El 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 communications tools, in 2017 UNICEF increased its 'likes' on Facebook by 35.6 per cent, on Twitter by 90 per cent, and on Instagram by 50 per cent.

## 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 particular focus on gender-based violence.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, UNICEF El Salvador continued to strengthen the National Child Protection System and supported programmes aimed at addressing child rights violations. The Country Office engaged in advocacy and provided technical assistance to CONNA for the drafting of a proposal to reform LEPINA's administrative and judicial processes and procedures to remove the bottlenecks identified in the procedures. In addition, CONNA's staff were trained on complaint and reporting mechanisms and with the support of Child Helpline International, and key tools, policies and protocols were developed to install a helpline and ensure more efficient procedures and referral mechanisms for children. This effort will lead to increasing children's access to the Protection System.

Children's participation in CONNA's decision-making was strengthened through support provided for the renewal of the Consultative Council for Children and Adolescents (14 girls and boys). Moreover, support was provided to the Prosecution Office of the Republic for the development of a new protocol to provide legal and psychosocial services to victims, with an emphasis on children, adolescents, women and other vulnerable populations groups. Implementation of the new protocol will be a priority in 2018.

As part of efforts to improve children's access to local protection systems, selected municipalities with high rates of violence and migration are implementing a violence prevention strategy, which has improved their capacities for multisectoral coordination and increased the availability and accessibility of services. During 2017, the municipality of Soyapango initiated the implementation of the strategy and three municipalities (San Marcos, San Martín and Santo Tomás) continue making progress in its five components, namely: 1) the creation and strengthening of local protection systems; 2) increased capacities of communities for protection; 3) promotion of the right to play, recreational activities and culture; 4) strengthening of the capacities of families to address violence; and 5) provision of educational opportunities. As a result, 4,174 children (2,194 girls and 1,980 boys) have accessed and participated in their municipality's protection activities and programmes on a permanent basis. The strategy is being evaluated, and the results obtained will be used to review and replicate the model in other municipalities. An additional 3,277 children from San Marcos, San Martín, Santa Tecla and Santo Tomás increased their knowledge about the prevention of gender-based violence thanks to the partnership between UNICEF and Oxfam.

With respect to child migration, in 2017, UNICEF started implementing new ways of collaborating with General Directorate of Migration, International Organization for Migration, UNHCR, municipalities and civil society organizations. As a result of this collaboration, UNICEF developed and is implementing a local level multi-sector initiative focusing on reducing violence, one of the main underlying causes of child migration in the municipalities of Ciudad Delgado, San Marcos, San Martín, Santo Tomás and Soyapango. The strategy includes: the design and implementation of a warning system for the identification, referral and monitoring of cases of children affected by migration, including returned children; the development and implementation

of flexible educational modalities; the creation of vocational opportunities; and the recuperation and restoration of public spaces in municipalities, which serve as child-friendly spaces and have helped improve children's resilience and ties with their place of origin.

Joint advocacy of UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA led to a major legislative reform and the prohibition of child marriage. The Country Office worked closely with the Commission of the Legislative Assembly on families, children, adolescents, the elderly and persons with disabilities, among others, to position the issue on the public agenda, highlighting the voice of children using U-Report and social networks and mobilizing society and the population in general through interviews in the media, press, radio and television. The effort culminated in the unanimous approval, in August, of the amendment to the Code on the Family prohibiting the marriage of persons younger than 18 years of age. Joint efforts by these United Nations agencies also led to the inclusion of the country in the Joint Regional Inter-Agency Programme to eliminate child and early marriages in Latin America and the Caribbean.

As part of UNICEF's capacity-building interventions, the Legislative Assembly and members of the Latin American Parliament received technical support for the drafting of regional laws and amendments of national regulatory framework harmonized with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular: the Preliminary Draft for the Special Law against Bullying in School, the Law on Early Childhood, the Law on Daycare Centres for Children, the Regional Law for the Elimination of Corporal Punishment, and the Law for the Protection of Migrant Children and Adolescents.

In terms of juvenile justice, progress has been slower than had hoped in the implementation of a special measure announced by the President of the Republic in the context of the 25th year of the Peace Accords. The measure aims to provide better protection to adolescents in conflict with the law, in particular those deprived of liberty. However, despite challenges in implementing the measure, the Country Office was able to ensure the participation of 130 operators (76 women and 54 men) of the judicial sector and the National Protection System in a forum organized by the Judiciary Training School of the National Judiciary Council. In addition, UNICEF, together with International Organization for Migration and UNDP, supported the drafting of a joint proposal on tertiary prevention to create opportunities for the social reinsertion of adolescents who have breached criminal law.

**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**

The proposal to reform LEPINA's administrative and judicial processes and procedures, drafted with UNICEF's technical support in a participatory manner, has been submitted to CONNA for follow-up. The proposal is currently under review by CONNA and may be used as the basis for the drafting of the reform initiative. It is expected that the reform, if adopted by the Legislative Assembly, will have a direct and positive impact on children's access to justice, as it is intended to remove the bottlenecks identified in the procedures carried out by the Protection Boards and the Specialized Juvenile Courts.

In 2017, in collaboration with Child Helpline International, UNICEF initiated work for the installation of the first helpline aimed at providing advisory and referral services to children. The helpline, which will also serve as a platform where children can voice their opinions, will be

operated by CONNA and launched in 2018. In the meantime, the main tools and policy documents for the helpline implementation have been developed. These include a situation analysis, protection policy, staff selection policy, directory of resources, and study on the needs elaborated as a result of consultations with key stakeholders and 90 children of different ages from diverse areas of the country.

Municipal governments continued to play a key role in the implementation of effective protection systems at the local level. Some 507 members of the 14 Departmental Councils of Mayors, from 196 municipal governments (out of 262) and such key national institutions as MINED, MINSAL, ISNA and CONNA participated in six national workshops, led by Corporation of Municipalities of the Republic of El Salvador in partnership with UNICEF to raise awareness on the importance of local coordination and collaboration to protect children's rights.

As part of the strengthening of the participation of children and adolescents in CONNA's decision-making, in October, the Second Forum of the Consultative Council for Children and Adolescents was held with support from UNICEF, reinforcing the Consultative Council as a permanent forum inside CONNA formed by 14 girls and boys from all departments in the country. Some 238 persons, including 186 children, (90 boys and 76 girls) participated in the forum. During the forum, an accountability report elaborated by the participating children was presented and children called upon the institutions of the Protection System to increase their investment to guarantee their right to receive information about sexual and reproductive health.

**OUTPUT 2** Selected municipalities have the 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**

Three municipalities with high rates of violence and migration (San Marcos, San Martín and Santo Tomás) continued to implement a local violence prevention strategy, and in 2017, the model was replicated in a new municipality (Soyapango).

Two of these municipalities focused their interventions on the recuperation and revitalization of public spaces (two in San Martín and one in Santo Tomás) which are used as safe spaces where children and their families participate in artistic and sports activities. In 2017, a total of 3,114 children (1,633 girls and 1,481 boys) participated, on a permanent basis, in arts and sports activities, which helped improve their resilience, foster values and enhance their skills in teamwork and conflict mediation. In San Marcos, the inclusion of children with disabilities was promoted through sports. As a result, 30 children with disabilities (12 girls and 18 boys) participated in inclusive sports activities.

The four municipalities now have new scholarship schemes formally inserted into the plans of local government institutions to guarantee their sustainability. In 2017, 249 children with specific protection needs (125 girls and 124 boys) received monthly scholarship payments to guarantee their right to education, access health-care services and receive vocational training. The scholarship, which is designed to address the child's specific protection needs, targets pregnant adolescents, adolescent mothers, children with disabilities, child victims of violence and children who live in extreme poverty.

Families in selected municipalities increased their capacities to address violence and apply

positive child-rearing practices. Two municipalities are now implementing ECD programmes and promoting positive child-rearing practices (one in San Martín, two in Santo Tomás), which has benefited 159 children aged 2 and 6 years (75 girls and 84 boys) and 48 parents in educational and stimulation activities in safe spaces. In addition, San Marcos implemented a programme to promote values and foster peaceful coexistence among 92 children (51 girls and 41 boys), and 61 parents also attended the programme to strengthen family ties.

The municipality of Soyapango established a Consultative Council for Children, comprising 20 children (15 girls and 5 boys) who are participating in the decision-making process. This facilitated the participation of 560 children (310 girls and 250 boys) in consultations to draft a new Municipal Policy for the Protection of Children. Moreover, as part of efforts to strengthen institutional capacity at the local level, UNICEF supported San Martín in developing a new municipal violence-prevention policy with a child-protection approach and a multi-sectoral protocol to guide the provision of psychosocial support to victims of violence.

As part of efforts to combat violence in schools, three schools established mediation centres. In 2017, 32 children (16 girls and 16 boys) were trained to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes, and 12 teachers were trained in the use of art therapy for peaceful coexistence to be replicated in their own schools, in San Martín.

In 2018, the Country Office will complete an evaluation and systematization of the strategy (started in 2017) to consolidate the gains and create a replicable and scalable intervention model.

**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**

As a result of the implementation of the local multi-sector initiative to address violence as one of the main underlying causes of migration, the Country Office designed an online platform for the identification, referral and monitoring of cases of children in need of protection. The online system will be operated by local governments at the municipal level, and will also be installed in the only migrant reception centre (La Chacra) to facilitate the identification and registration of returned children from the five municipalities targeted by the initiative (Ciudad Delgado, San Marcos, San Martín, Santo Tomás and Soyapango) to refer them automatically to specialized protection services in their respective localities. The creation of the Yes, I Protect (Si Protejo) system is a follow-up to the recommendations of the review of the Educational Insertion System promoted by UNICEF.

In 2017, the system's Entity Relationship Diagram, which describes the functionalities and user rights. A draft conceptual model was elaborated and used to train the staff at the municipal level. Also as part of this strategy, progress was made in the design and implementation of specialized child protection services, including services targeting returned children.

UNICEF entered into partnerships with the Human Rights Institute of Jose Simeon Cañas University to provide immediate humanitarian response to families forced to leave the country due to violence and to internally displaced families. To date, through this partnership, 2 family groups (7 children and 4 adults) together with 7 internally displaced families (20 children and 14 adults) in international protection were assisted and received appropriate support.

Thanks to UNICEF's support, the Prosecution Office of the Republic developed a protocol to provide legal and psychosocial services to victims of crime, with an emphasis on children, adolescents, women and other persons living in situations of vulnerability. This protocol will help improve and standardize the legal and psychosocial services provided by the Prosecution Office in its 19 victim units, and help prevent re-victimization.

In the area of prevention of online violence, 25,481 children (13,798 girls and 11,683 boys), 514 fathers, 231 mothers and 267 teachers received information about the risks involved with the inadequate use of the Internet and information and communication technologies and on how to prevent online sexual abuse and exploitation. This was done through workshops held in 272 schools, at the national level, by the National Civilian Police Force, with support from UNICEF. In 2017, the Police Force increased the number of trained police officers to 145, and the Police's Information and Communication Technology teams of 17 delegations were strengthened to ensure the replicability and sustainability of these workshops nationwide.

**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**

In 2017, 28 schools situated in municipalities with high rates of gender-based violence and teenage pregnancies (San Marcos, Santa Tecla, San Martín and Santo Tomás) implemented the strategy to prevent gender-based violence, especially sexual violence. In addition, 617 girls, members of the Gender-Based Violence Prevention Committees, received training on "new femininities" and the prevention of teenage pregnancies and replicated the strategy, reaching 2,100 girls and adolescents in their schools. Moreover, 560 boys, members of the Committees, also attended workshops on "new masculinities" and responsible parenthood. These children also strengthened their capacities for the identification, referral and monitoring of cases of gender-based violence in their schools.

As part of this initiative, Oxfam forged a partnership with the Evangelical University of El Salvador to train psychology students in their fourth year on child rights and the provision of psychosocial support. In turn, these students held workshops in the 28 schools, in which 364 and 225 children participated.

As a result of these workshops, 73 cases of victims of sexual violence (40 girls and 33 boys) were identified; out of these, 54 cases were referred to protection institutions and 40 received personalized psychosocial support from the Attorney General's Office.

In addition, 100 children and adolescents (65 girls and 35 boys), 35 parents (33 women and 2 men) and 826 teachers (555 women and 271 men) participated in workshops to mainstream gender and the prevention of gender-based violence into the peaceful coexistence plans and manuals of the schools. As a result, 14 out of the 28 participating schools adjusted their peaceful coexistence plans and manuals. Moreover, 19 teachers received technical assistance on investigation tools, the formulation of indicators, software and data analyses for the monitoring of gender-based violence in their schools.

Furthermore, 140 persons, including congresswomen from the Legislative Assembly, community women leaders, adolescents from the Gender-Based Violence Prevention

Committees and representatives of the municipalities, participated in a Public Forum on Social and Cultural Norms that Reproduce Violence against Girls and Women.

As part of these school-based violence prevention interventions, 30 children and adolescents undertook an analysis of the situation of sexual violence against girls and drafted a proposal with recommendations for key institutions to eliminate the impunity. The proposal was submitted to the heads of each one of the institutions, including the General Prosecution Office of the Republic, and was incorporated in the Protocol for Providing Legal and Psychosocial Support mentioned in Output 1.3.

El Salvador was selected to participate in UNICEF's global initiative to systematize evidence-based programmes and good practices to address violence against children in schools. As a part of this, the Country Office selected the 'Strategy to prevent gender-based violence, especially sexual violence' implemented with Oxfam and the Let Make the School Ours initiative implemented with MINED at the municipal level to be evaluated and systematized. To date, the mapping of current programmes and projects on violence against children have been finalized. The information will be used as a basis for the development of monitoring and evaluation tools for these kinds of programmes.

**OUTCOME 2** Government institutions and civil society organizations that provide early childhood education implement inter-sectoral protocols for coordinated scaling up of successful models of early education.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

During the second year of the Programme of Cooperation (2016–2020), UNICEF El Salvador continued to negotiate, develop and implement some of the strategies and interventions proposed to address challenges on access and quality of early childhood education and secondary education. Main efforts focused on: the timely identification of girls and boys at risk and out of school; the development of strategies to make education flexible and validate pilot initiatives at the local level to retain children in school or reintegrate out-of-school children; and the progressive expansion of family orientation programmes to promote positive child-rearing practices to prevent violence and improve ECD. These efforts contributed to the strengthening of educational public policies as per the PESE and PESS, and of national and local inter-agency and multisectorial partnerships, and to the development of a culture of systematization, monitoring and evaluation.

The main results achieved in 2017 were as follows:

UNICEF supported the implementation of strategic national and international initiatives directly impacting public policy for education. UNICEF continued to play a leading role in the National Education Council (CONED), ensuring the alignment of its interventions and that of key actors with the priorities established in the PESE and SDG 4. As a result of these efforts: i) MINED's annual workplans reflected the 26 PESE's prioritized actions; this in turn facilitated the allocation of financial and technical resources necessary to fulfil PESE objectives for 2017; ii) strategic partnerships were forged to fund and implement PESE with the coordination of national and international stakeholders, and this led to the setting up of four coordination and follow-up teams, each one focusing on one of the four challenges identified by PESE, namely: schools free from violence, quality teachers, early childhood care, and universalization of 12 years of schooling; iii) positioning of CONED to advocate for an increase in government funding for education; iv) elaboration of two proposals that were submitted to CONED's Strategic Steering

Committee to promote high-impact national strategies reconciling PESE goals with those aimed at preventing violence, which created opportunities for peaceful coexistence and territorializing education planning and coverage in the prioritized municipalities; and v) increased advocacy and positioning of ECD in the public policy agenda. In early childhood, progress was made at the national and local levels. UNICEF, as a member of the National Technical Committee for Early Childhood to draft the National Strategy for Comprehensive Early Childhood Care, provided technical assistance to ensure that the strategy and situation analysis are aligned with goals established in PESE and SDG 4.

At the local level, the strategy of 'territorialization' was successfully consolidated to bring comprehensive early childhood care services to five municipalities. This strategy was the driving force behind the commitment made by 25 municipal mayors to adhere to the National Pact for Early Childhood Education and Development, joining the 22 mayors who had signed the pact in 2016. Furthermore, early childhood methodological guidelines for the improvement of study programmes on topics such as education for transition, comprehensive sexuality education and educational inclusion were reviewed and elaborated. In addition, efforts to elaborate a protocol and tools for the systematization of early childhood care programmes were initiated.

School retention and reintegration strategies for adolescents were consolidated as a result of the implementation of the pilot project Let's Make the School Our Own in Ciudad Delgado. Among the principal outcomes achieved for 2017 were: i) elaboration of three protocols for multi-sectorial actions focusing on school retention, school reintegration and psychosocial support; ii) awareness-raising activities on the right to education in 15 schools at the municipal level; iii) implementation of after-school homework study halls clubs for academic recovery and promotion of artistic and recreational activities in 13 student governments; iv) public commitment by teachers from 15 schools to replicate training on the right to education; and v) elaboration of two vocational training modules for secondary education.

As for school reintegration, the following results were achieved: the design and implementation of a community mobilization communication strategy for retention and/or reintegration; partnership with the municipality of Ciudad Delgado to identify out-of-school children; design and implementation of a strategy for the 'flexibilization' of primary and secondary education; and capacity building of MINED to operate three Fast-Track Primary Education Centres in the municipalities of Ciudad Delgado (two) and Soyapango (one).

At the national level, the Country Office reinforced its advocacy for the development of an early warning module to prevent school dropout. It is expected that the module will be integrated in MINED's education information system, which is currently being designed.

**OUTPUT 1** Government institutions and civil society organizations that provide early childhood education implement inter-sectoral protocols for coordinated scaling up of successful models of early education.

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

During 2017, the main progress on ECD included the elaboration of the National Strategy, the revision of the programmes and methodological guidelines, and consolidation of the territorialization strategy.

The elaboration of a **National Strategy for ECD**, also a commitment of PESE, led by CONNA, with the participation of nine government institutions and NGOs, and UNICEF as the only

international cooperation agency, was started. International ECD experts participated in the validation with UNICEF's support. One of UNICEF's main efforts consisted in ensuring that the strategy provides the theoretical and regulatory framework to guarantee coordinated multi-sectorial ECD services.

Regarding the revision and quality improvement of the study programmes and methodological guidelines of ECD, progress was made in producing educational materials on the following topics:

i) 'Happy Steps Guidelines' (MINED, Save the Children, UNICEF) for educational transition. A national training of trainers was held with 4,730 preschool teachers, 788 early childhood technical assistants first grade teachers and teachers supporting inclusion, to facilitate the transition from family to ECD and from ECD to first grade. Participants replicated the training, reaching 9,000 additional early childhood technical assistants and teachers.

ii) Materials on indicators of achievements in the development of the Institutional Track and the Family Community Track. Some 1,772 preschool teachers, 20 ECD professionals and 80 early childhood technical assistants were trained on these materials.

iii) Four technical tools for educational inclusion – 'Orientation and Resources Centres from the inclusive approach', 'Educational Strategy for Teachers Supporting Inclusion', 'The Basics of the Special Education Curriculum' and 'Technical and Administrative Orientations of Special Education Schools' – were developed and distributed to 60 professionals from the CORs, 24 departmental and national technicians, 533 teachers supporting inclusion, 251 special education teachers and 67 technical assistants. A comprehensive sexuality education guide for ECD was elaborated and its validation is still pending.

At the local level, the ECD territorialization strategy was consolidated in the municipalities of Ciudad Delgado, Mejicanos, Santa Ana, Sonsonate and Soyapango, contributing to the universalization of training programmes for families and for ECD caregivers in these municipalities, through the implementation of MINED's Family Circles and the I Am a Person Too (También soy Persona) methodology, which focus on promoting positive child-rearing practices. Results achieved include: i) 11 institutions strengthened coordination: MINED, ISNA, MINSAL, National Civil Police, Governor's Office, Social Investment Fund for Local Development, and 5 mayor's offices; ii) 103 volunteers (19 men) from MINSAL, Governor's Office, National Institute for Youth, Social Investment Fund for Local Development, municipalities, secondary schools, universities, churches, Child Development Centre, Community Development Association and community leaders were trained on child-rearing practices and the I Am a Person Too methodology; iii) 226 family centres are functioning, reaching 2,596 children (1,254 girls and 1,342 boys), with the support of 40 early childhood technical assistants (2 men) and volunteers. Regarding gender parity, strategies are being adapted to increase men's participation as part of an adjustment of schedules and awareness among peers.

UNICEF is developing the evaluation of the Triple-E Early Childhood Development Programme to gather evidence about the efficiency and cost benefit of ECD interventions.

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

### **Analytical statement of progress**

At the national level, UNICEF El Salvador promoted education and the improvement of the quality of the curriculum and teaching, contributing to the efforts of MINED to incorporate more than 25,000 children and adolescents back into school in 2017. In addition, UNICEF supported the flexible basic and secondary education (MINED-Plan), and the implementation of an innovative initiative, I am Music (with MINED and Musicians without Borders) to promote peaceful coexistence through music. This led to the training and constitution of a core team formed by 35 music teachers and community promoters: (5 women and 30 men) who replicated knowledge to 939 students (546 girls and 393 boys); the design of the high secondary education degree in dancing and plastic arts with the Salvadoran Foundation for Education and Work–MINED, which will be finalized in 2018; and the validation of low secondary vocational education modules on gardening and minor repairs of appliances and training of 16 multiplier teachers (12 women). The development of methodological handbooks and textbooks on comprehensive sexuality education for Grades 8 and 9 are in progress with the collaboration of MINED, UNFPA, the Feminist Collective and the Pestalozzi Foundation.

Locally, a pilot project to retain and reintegrate out-of-school children and adolescents was implemented with Plan, MINED and the municipality of Ciudad Delgado, targeting:

- i) 15 schools affected by violence, 1,720 students (881 girls, 839 boys) (115 per cent progress), 270 teachers, principals and professionals (191 women) (86.5 per cent progress), and 2,010 families (1,713 women) (100.5 per cent progress). Participants now have knowledge on education rights, gender, life skills, sexual and reproductive health, and development of a life project.
- ii) Activation of 13 student governments, with 187 children (133 girls) who supported four after-school homework study clubs, with 21 child mentors (9 girls) improving academic performance of 58 children (26 girls) and recreational and peaceful coexistence activities.
- iii) Participation of 448 children (219 girls) in vocational workshops (91.07 per cent progress with 144 in 2016); expansion of robotic sessions; and implementation in other municipal facilities to incorporate 24 out-of-school children (6 girls) from four schools.
- iv) Awareness-raising activities reaching 280 families (112 per cent progress) on the importance of education reintegration through home visits.
- v) Identification of 342 out-of-school children (159 girls) (98 per cent progress), out of which 81.87 per cent received home visits and 17.14 per cent were incorporated into robotics workshops and flexible modalities.
- vi) Implementation of the Open Schools for Peaceful Coexistence initiative during holidays in 12 schools (232 children, 118 girls).
- vii) Implementation of a community mobilization communication strategy for school retention and reintegration.
- viii) Drafting of three protocols with the Municipal Committee of Violence Prevention and four schools on: school retention, school reintegration and psychosocial support.
- ix) Finalization of a midterm evaluation.

Successful pilot strategies were replicated to provide opportunities to children affected by migration in Ciudad Delgado and Soyapango (MINED-PLAN), leading to: i) the opening of three Fast-Track Basic Education centres with 77 children (30 girls); ii) the provision of psychosocial support to 238 children (98 girls); and iii) training of 22 teachers (16 women) in flexible modalities for future accreditation.

**OUTPUT 3** Subnational 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 advocated for the strengthening of the education system and the development of reliable and real-time statistics on education for schools and School Management Committees. UNICEF continued, in collaboration with MINED, to support the design of an early warning module on dropout which will complement the national information system through facilitating the technical support of Mexico's Foundation Proyecto Educativo. As a result of this collaboration, the system's architecture, users and products were defined, and the module's prototypes were designed.

Nevertheless, during the first quarter of 2017, MINED's decision to change the national information system and build a new one, similar to the information system in Honduras, slowed down the process for many months. To ensure the early warning module is incorporated into MINED's new information system, UNICEF engaged in intense advocacy, which included: i) facilitating exchanges between Proyecto Educativo, UNICEF Honduras and the Ministry of Education of Honduras to learn about the Educational Centre Administration System and analyse the feasibility of including the school drop-out warning module into this system; ii) advocacy with the Inter-American Development Bank to mobilize its support; iii) partnership with Millennium Fund II, the main donor of the new information system, to ensure their support and buy-in; iv) advocacy activities with MINED to ensure that the inclusion of the module into the final product and, at the same time, implement the recommendations of PESS; v) advocacy activities with CONED's Strategic Coordination Commission to ensure the module is part of the priority actions of the Commission; and vi) positioning the development of the module as a priority for the implementation of recommendations on education polity contained in the 'El Salvador Human Development Report' (Informe de Desarrollo Humano de El Salvador).

As a result of all these efforts, MINED and Millennium Fund II agreed to join forces to ensure that the early warning module is included into the new education information system which started functioning in November 2017. It is expected that the early warning module will focus on all levels of education (preschool, primary and secondary). Its architecture and specifications will be designed by a team comprising MINED, Millennium Fund II, UNICEF and the Foundation for Salvadoran Integral Education.

**OUTPUT 4** The Ministry of Education, the Salvadoran Network for the Right to Education and civil society have increased capacity and evidence for advocating for increased investment in public education.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

Different networks such as CONED, the Salvadoran Network for the Right to Education (RESALDE), and the Initial and Preschool Education Network of El Salvador (REINSAL), among others, were mobilized to call upon the Government to fulfil the commitments made at various national and international forums, such as the Forum of Vice-Presidents of Central America and the Dominican Republic (ES, 2011), the World Education Forum (luncheon, 2015) and the presidential election campaign (2014), to increase public spending on education to reach between 4 per cent and 6 per cent of gross domestic product.

Thanks to UNICEF's advocacy, two of the PESE's challenges were identified as 'accelerators' to stimulate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in the country, namely: 'Care for all' and 'Universalization of 12 years of schooling'. UNICEF continued to play an important role within CONED, including its Technical Commission and the Strategic Coordination Committee. The Country Office acted as catalyst and contributed to enhancing advocacy, coordination and mobilization, as well as implementation of the following initiatives:

- Positioning of greater investment in education as a priority in the elaboration of the 'second generation peace accords', and promotion of a budget increase of 7 per cent of gross domestic product, which is reflected in the Political Constitution and in the National Budget.
- Provision of technical and financial support for CONED's plenary session, the debate on funding and the presentation of RESALDE's campaign '6% Yes for Education'.
- Support to the establishment of a team to design CONED's advocacy strategy to call upon the Government and the Legislative Assembly to increase investment in education, with the following results: i) holding of a press conference and elaboration and release of a public statement to call for an exhaustive review of the budget allocations to the education sector and urge all the political, economic and social national stakeholders to include and ensure the inclusion, in future fiscal agreements, the funding of the PESE for the next 10 years and ii) support for the organization of a hearing with the Chair of the Education Committee of the Legislative Assembly to advocate for increasing the budget allocated for the 2018 fiscal year.
- Provision of quality advice to MINED and support for the elaboration of high-impact project proposals that have allowed funds to be channelled for citizen security and the prevention of violence through MINED and prioritized municipalities.

**OUTCOME 3** By 2020, children, particularly those aged 0–5 years, 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**

In 2017, the second year of the Country Programme Document, UNICEF El Salvador, in partnership with governmental institutions and NGOs, promoted key actions to build capacity to strengthen the technical skills of local health and education promoters specialized in ECD at the national and local levels, facilitating access to up-to-date knowledge and innovative tools to elaborate strategic plans and intervention models to improve the quality of health and nutrition services for women of reproductive age and adolescents (girls and boys).

The Fourth Evaluation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes was finalized, and led to the adoption of a Strategic Plan for Breastfeeding by MINSAL identifying the

existing gaps to promote, protect and support breastfeeding involving all sectors. The Human Milk Banks and Collection Centres Initiative in El Salvador was systematized as a successful model; best practices and lessons learned were identified and documented, facilitating the replication and scaling up at national level and dissemination at international level.

In February 2017, the National Breastfeeding Commission (CONALAM), with support from UNICEF, completed and launched a Multisectorial Strategic Plan that contributed to improved coordination and brought together strategic and comprehensive efforts to promote, protect and support breastfeeding mothers.

UNICEF El Salvador, as a member of the Neonatal Alliance, strongly advocated maintaining maternal and neonatal health as a priority on the national agenda. The Country Office supported the elaboration of a Strategic Plan with the participation of all members, including government institutions, United Nations organizations and NGOs, focusing on the prevention and reduction of the three main causes of neonatal mortality and promoting breastfeeding.

UNICEF El Salvador has been recognized as the leading coordinator by USAID and its eight partners for the support provided to ensure a coordinated response to the Zika virus with stakeholders. To advance this work UNICEF established four clusters with a joint workplan and goals, focusing on health services, vector control, community empowerment and communication/communication for development.

In response to the Zika virus, this year, UNICEF El Salvador focused its interventions on communication/communication for development and care and support components. At the local level, 429 community health promoters (171 men and 258 women) and 303 community education promoters were trained on health, sexual and reproductive health, nutrition, breastfeeding, early stimulation and development, self-care, prevention of the Zika virus, Congenital Zika Syndrome and congenital anomalies with a view to replicating and applying this knowledge in their work directly with communities and families, and by doing so improving the quality of their services.

In an effort to raise awareness about Zika and prevent its transmission, UNICEF intervened in 17 municipalities with high rates of suspected Zika virus cases through communication for development, which included the development and implementation of a Community Communication and Participation Strategy against Zika and other arboviruses. Approximately 4,150 girls and 3,750 boys, including adolescents, raised awareness and were informed about the Zika virus and its consequences. In addition, 4,000 persons, including pregnant women, their partners and relatives, received counselling sessions on Zika and Congenital Zika Syndrome and on family and community health.

In addition, 600,000 persons had access to key communication messages about the risk of transmitting the Zika virus, over the radio, on television, printed media, social networks and digital platforms; and 3,000 interacted with peers using UNICEF El Salvador's U-Report and UNICEF social networks.

The National HIV Programme was strengthened through the reinforcement of the United Nations Joint Team on HIV/AIDS. This helped improve the coordination and optimization of the limited resources available for the prevention and provision of health-care services for persons living with HIV and AIDS, and the prioritization of the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, especially considering the current context of sexual violence.

As for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), UNICEF, as a member of the WASH Working Group, contributed to the finalization of the drafting of the Strategic Plan for 2017–2021. The group – which is the country’s main coordination body on WASH and is led by MINSAL, with the participation of government institutions, NGOs and United Nations agencies – used the experience to consolidate its work by strengthening the skills of its members, and conducting a mapping of the preparedness and response capacities of the 19 institutional members of its technical team.

UNICEF also contributed to strengthening MINSAL’s capacity to respond to Level II and Level III emergencies by supporting the provision of basic supplies and the training of 240 health providers to improve preparedness to epidemiological outbreaks including arboviral infections and the Zika virus. Furthermore, the National Implementing Committee of the Health Surveillance Department of MINSAL received technical and financial support to enhance its technical capacity to build models to forecast and map epidemiological outbreaks.

Finally, UNICEF, UNDP and OCHA joined efforts to support the country in adapting the Index for Risk Management (INFORM) in El Salvador, with support from DFID and ECHO. The Directorate General for Civil Protection, which is leading this initiative with the participation of nine key governmental institutions, received support to train its technical experts to enable them to adapt the model to El Salvador’s context. A workplan was agreed upon by all actors. However, to ensure the sustainability of the effort, a memorandum of understanding to allow the sharing of information between the institutions involved will be signed in 2018.

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

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

Despite efforts to reduce child mortality and the progress achieved, neonatal mortality rate remains stagnant and neonatal health persists as one of the country’s most important challenges. To respond to these challenges, the Country Office continued to prioritize interventions aimed at reducing preventable causes of mortality among newborns and promoting practices that enhance child survival, such as breastfeeding and human milk banks, among others.

In the framework of the Zika response and considering the consequences of the Congenital Zika Syndrome on affected children and their families, UNICEF El Salvador continued to strongly advocate to position congenital anomalies and disabilities in newborns as a priority among decision makers in MINSAL, MINED and USAID. In addition, technical assistance was provided to promote comprehensive care in these cases and address congenital anomalies, one of the first causes of neonatal death in the country.

The Fifth Scientific Forum for the Prevention, Diagnosis and Care of Congenital Anomalies, which was aimed at raising awareness, influencing and promoting key messages to prevent the Zika virus, also provided an opportunity to strengthen the services, care and support for newborns and their families. Some 250 health professionals taking part in the forum enhanced their scientific skills on prevention, diagnosis and care of congenital anomalies. In addition, the technical knowledge of health staff to analyse data was consolidated, contributing to the enhanced availability of information on healthy practices in the family and community and practices which can be replicated by local health services. Advocacy efforts to enhance support to networks of families with children with disabilities focused on disseminating experience and

evidence of the link between prevention, congenital anomalies and disabilities and the importance of benefiting from specialized health services.

Furthermore, the MINSAL Health Surveillance System was improved to better monitor congenital anomalies, updating the technical skills of staff to improve the efficiency and quality of neonatal health services with regard to Congenital Zika Syndrome and neonatal health, and the application of effective and timely procedures for prevention and care of newborns and pregnant women. These local interventions, aimed at lowering premature birth rates and low birth weights, as envisaged in the Strategic Plan for Prematurity, were implemented with UNICEF's support.

Overall, the response to the Zika virus provided the opportunity to enhance the quality of information systems, increase of diagnostic capabilities, and improve the services model for maternal and child healthcare. These efforts will be consolidated during the implementation of the second phase of the response to the Zika virus in 2018 and 2019.

**OUTPUT 2** Authorities in selected subnational 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 2017, the Joint Programme on Food and Nutritional Security for El Salvador's Children and Households (Programa Conjunto de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional para la Niñez y el Hogar Salvadoreño), implemented by FAO, WFP, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization and UNICEF, was concluded and evaluated. With UNICEF's support, local and community coordination was promoted, and the technical capacities of health promoters were strengthened to improve the quality of services in health, nutrition, child development and nutritional food security. As a result of these interventions, 590 girls and 586 boys benefited from weight-for-height surveys in three selected municipalities of the Department of Chalatenango-

Thanks to UNICEF's technical support and advocacy, MINSAL included the attention to arboviruses and the Zika virus in its Technical Guidelines for Healthcare Services for Children, and in national procedural and regulatory documents outlining the procedures to ensure the quality of processes. In 2017, 187 health professionals (71 men and 116 women) from MINSAL participated in the technical reviews to ensure their buy-in and facilitate the use of these tools. The Technical Guidelines will contribute to facilitate the health education process with communities in five health regions at the national level.

MINSAL and UNICEF worked closely to elaborate a training strategy for community health providers. The training modules were designed following a Training of Trainers methodology, and the establishment of a Training of Trainers Committee to monitor the implementation. Results included the training of 429 professionals, including health promoters, nurses and epidemiologists (171 men and 258 women) on methodologies focusing on how to change behaviours to prevent the Zika virus and Congenital Zika Syndrome and on nutrition, child development, self-care, and sexual and reproductive health.

Thanks to the equipment provided to the Health Surveillance System and the training of 60 epidemiology professionals (32 men and 28 women), MINSAL acquired the capacity to build

forecast models for public health, and adjust the Epidemic Alert Systems. Technical support was also provided to elaborate an Atlas of Health Inequities with the information gathered by the trained epidemiologists. UNICEF will continue supporting these efforts in 2018.

The Systematization of the Experience of Human Breast-Milk Banks and Human Milk Collection Centres, which documents best practices and lessons learned regarding the Breast Milk Bank Strategy to Infant Survival, was published and launched during a public event. This process, which is considered a reference tool at local, national and international levels, provides valuable information to decision makers for scaling up interventions as a reference for countries that want to replicate the experience.

Turning to care and support for persons with disabilities, UNICEF El Salvador focused its interventions on early childhood, and used the opportunity provided by the response to the Zika virus to conduct a mapping of stakeholders and institutions working in the area, identifying 43 institutions, organizations and support networks. The mapping, which will be launched in 2018, will serve as a national document reference for NGOs, public institutions and families, providing a directory of services and contacts that currently does not exist in the country.

**OUTPUT 3** The Government, civil society organizations 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**

In 2017, UNICEF El Salvador reinforced its partnerships with strategic partners such as USAID, those involved in the Zika response, the Neonatal Alliance, the Multisectorial Group on Adolescents, the National Breastfeeding Commission, and the National Food and Nutritional Security Commission to monitor maternal and child healthcare and to jointly strengthen health services to respond to the needs of the population.

As part of efforts to enhance access to health services, working jointly with the education sector, 303 early childhood technical assistants (asistentes técnicos de primera infancia) from MINED enhanced their knowledge on the Zika virus, health and nutrition by receiving training at 13 municipalities. They replicated their knowledge in 249 family circle sessions, reaching 3,422 parents (3,074 women and 348 men) on the prevention of the Zika virus, Congenital Zika Syndrome and child development, using educational materials aimed at changing behaviours. It is expected that families will use the knowledge to improve early childhood development at home. In addition, the basis was installed for the care and support of children with congenital anomalies and disabilities caused by the Zika virus and other illnesses.

To motivate health professionals as well as identify and promote 'champions', 23 Mother- and Child-Friendly Health Establishments from the National Health System received certification and their work was recognized in a series of events held to celebrate World Breastfeeding Week. These establishments, which were identified for their efforts to implement and monitor practices that promote, protect and support breastfeeding, are considered as key allies for promoting universal and exclusive breastfeeding and achieving the SDGs related to breastfeeding. In addition, with technical support from UNICEF, the Fourth Evaluation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes was held, identifying gaps to be addressed in 2018 with respect to breastfeeding.

UNICEF contributed to the finalization of MINSAL's Technical Guidelines for the Care to Children, which outline the procedures for comprehensive assistance to children. It is expected that the implementation of the guidelines will contribute to the quality of nutrition and mother and child health-care services.

Taking advantage of the potential of U-Report to gather the opinions of adolescents and young people and provide orientation with messages, the Country Office led the design of mother and child health and nutrition surveys focusing on the prevention of the Zika virus, on the issues of pregnancy, newborns and the Zika virus, knowledge and prevention of HIV and AIDS, breastfeeding, and access to sexual and reproductive health services. The results of these surveys were disseminated on social networks, with an average participation of 60 per cent of U-Reporters.

As part of the Country Office's work to promote healthy lives among adolescents, 11 adolescents living with HIV and AIDS benefited from technical support to design a life plan with the assistance of a technological application, registering their expectations on education, employment and skills development and participating in diverse orientation sessions.

**OUTPUT 4** By the end of 2020, national authorities and the Country Office have strengthened capacities to prepare for and response to the onset of emergencies and are applying resilience strategies directly with communities at the national level.

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, with support from the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office, the Country Office enhanced its capacities on emergency preparedness and response. A training and simulation were held allowing all staff to update their knowledge on the internal policies and procedures to prepare and respond to emergencies. As a follow-up to this capacity-building activity, the Country Office drafted an action plan, whose implementation is regularly being monitored. In addition, UNICEF El Salvador participated in a national evacuation drill in the event of an earthquake, which was promoted by the Directorate General for Civil Protection. Lessons learned from this exercise were identified and analysed with all staff. This led to a series of adjustments in the office to improve its preparedness level and ability to quickly respond to drills. The roster of consultants specialized in emergency response was reviewed to ensure the capacity of a selected number of consultants, and they were strengthened through training and dissemination of the Step-by-Step Guide to Emergency Response and the Core Commitments for Children. In preparation for the transition to the Emergency Preparedness Platform system in 2018, the Country Office took steps to review and update the information in the Early Warning Early Action plan to facilitate the transition process.

In 2017, with UNICEF's technical support, the Country Humanitarian Team and United Nations Emergency Technical Team successfully collaborated to improve their capacities for joint emergency preparedness and response during 2017 with training activities and a simulation with the participation of 29 key staff of the United Nations system, national and international organizations and government institutions.

The WASH coordination group, consisting of 19 institutions, already adopted an Annual Operating Plan for 2017 and a Strategic Plan for 2017–2021, and undertook a mapping of the preparedness and response capacities of each institution. In addition, trained to enhance the quality of the response, members of the WASH group participated in training on the Inter-

Agency Standing Committee's Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action, and on the preparation and administration of warehouses and other logistical aspects.

With respect to climate change, in 2017, UNICEF El Salvador started to identify actions that can be promoted to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change in some key sectors such as education or nutrition. To consolidate this work and ensure its sustainability, a strategy will be developed in 2018 with the support of the regional office.

The 2018–2021 Strategic Plan to implement the roadmap of the Central American standards for providing services, protection and inclusion to persons with disabilities in emergencies was completed with UNICEF technical and financial support, under the leadership of CONAIPD and the Directorate General for Civil Protection.

In addition, UNICEF, UNDP and OCHA joined efforts to support the country in its adaptation of INFORM in El Salvador, with the support of DFID and ECHO. This effort is being chaired by the Directorate General for Civil Protection, with the involvement of nine other governmental institutions. The initiative will be consolidated in 2018.

**OUTCOME 4** By 2020, children and adolescents who face multiple deprivations have increased access to a pertinent, effective and integrated social protection system that is properly funded, monitored and evaluated.

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, UNICEF El Salvador achieved major progress in the formulation of a proposal for a national development strategy and social policy centred on children. To initiate the dialogue and the involvement of diverse stakeholders in the process, UNICEF promoted the establishment of a Consultative Group on Children formed by 11 key influencers, representatives of different areas of society including the private sector, academia and international organizations. .

UNICEF El Salvador successfully built new partnerships with two world-renowned experts to support the Consultative Group on Children and UNICEF in this process. As part of these efforts, the Country Office is working with a renowned economist who is leading the development of a generational accounting case study for El Salvador. The results of this innovative methodology endorsed by 20 Nobel Prize winners in economics will contribute to ongoing fiscal dialogue by developing a child-centred investment framework for policymakers and key stakeholders. The investment framework identifies the key fiscal reforms that El Salvador authorities need to implement to ensure that children can develop their capabilities and skills. Advocacy around this framework and its dissemination in forums will be a priority activity for 2018.

UNICEF El Salvador also entered into partnership with Global TIES for Children, a leading institution in early childhood and adolescent development. The institution has evaluated best practices on ECD programmes globally and as part of a strategy to influence stakeholders, and presented them to national authorities, representatives of political parties in El Salvador and CONED. A specific proposal for El Salvador is being designed and will be broadly discussed and disseminated next year.

UNICEF El Salvador made considerable progress in the implementation of its research initiative. In that sense, partnerships were forged with different organizations and experts. The main

findings of some of the research conducted in 2017 were presented to the Consultative Group on Children through six sessions. The research agenda focuses on the historical evolution of social policies for children and families in El Salvador; the identification of development milestones of children and adolescents; the main elements of an integral family policy; the intergenerational inequality in public debt; and the identification of global best practices on ECD and the formulation of specific recommendations for El Salvador. All these efforts will be consolidated and presented next year.

It is expected that the Consultative Group on Children's advocacy among other stakeholders will be key to ensure that the proposal for a Child-Centred Social Policy is included in discussions on the next national five-year development plan that will be developed after the municipal and legislative elections of 2018 and the presidential elections of 2018.

As a result of its advocacy efforts, UNICEF El Salvador was able to reach a wider range of stakeholders, including high-level government officials, parliamentarians, political leaders, international organizations, chief executive officers in the private sector, NGOs and opinion leaders in El Salvador. The office presented a proposal for a Child-Centred Social Policy in many forums, calling attention to the importance of policy reforms to develop the full potential of younger generations. Overall, more than 700 key stakeholders from different sectors participated in these activities.

In July, the Country Office supported the Business Foundation for Social Action (FUNDEMAS), the national leading NGO on corporate social responsibility, in organizing the 5th Week of Corporate Social Responsibility, focusing on the SDGs and child development. Additionally, the Country Office also facilitated discussion and exchanges between key stakeholders with the participation of two renowned experts from Boston University and New York University.

In 2017, the Country Office assisted the Technical and Planning Secretariat of the President's Office (SETEPLAN) in the elaboration of an implementation strategy for universal birth registration and identification documents with a personal number assigned to each child since birth.

In partnership with the National Statistics Office, the Country Office also supported the launch of a website with data on children with the purpose of making data about the situation of children's rights in the country available to the public.

In that same vein, discussion started with MINSAL for the continuous monitoring of the situation of children. The workplan to conduct the second round of the Multiple Indicators Clusters Surveys (MICS) in 2019 was elaborated.

**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 public policy.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, the Country Office concluded two important research initiatives: the historical evolution of social policies for children and families in El Salvador; and an in-depth analysis on the evolution of the family structure, the main challenges in parenting practices and key interventions that work and can be used as models for the new social policy focused on children. These studies generated important recommendations which lay the foundation for

defining the main pillars of the Child-Centred Social Policy. The main findings and recommendations of the studies were widely shared with relevant organizations to promote inter-sectoral policy discussions. These studies, which will be launched in 2018, are part of the broader strategy to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of social protection systems that benefit children and their families.

The Country Office provided high-quality support to the Consultative Group on Children, facilitating cooperation and discussion with key research institutions and experts on different topics – namely, with an eminent Salvadoran’s historian who presented an historical study on social policies and child-related services in El Salvador; the Salvadoran Foundation for Economic and Social Development (FUSADES), a leading research institution on issues related to families in El Salvador; the Secretary General of the Ibero-American General Secretariat, who provided recommendations on how to include child development in the political agenda; an expert from Boston University who is developing an adequate investment framework for children; and Global TIES for Children for the presentation of evaluated programmes targeting the first decade of life. These discussions helped the Consultative Group on Children in the elaboration of a roadmap for the development of the strategy, which identifies priority actions and defines the key child-related programmes and inter-sectoral coordination given El Salvador’s context.

Through the alliance with Global TIES for Children, effective ECD programmes were presented in initial discussion with counterparts in El Salvador. As part of this work, Global TIES for Children is working in coordination with the Consultative Group on Children and national authorities to develop the first proposal on ECD interventions for El Salvador, which will be finalized in 2018.

Additionally, the Country Office developed a workplan, concept note and data collection tools, with the Centre for Educational and Social Studies, to get a better understanding of the priorities of political actors in relation to children in El Salvador. Consultations and in-depth interviews with 50 influential actors in public policies are currently in progress and results will be available in 2018.

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

### **Analytical statement of progress**

The Country Office continued to regularly monitor the situation of children in El Salvador. In the first quarter, the Ministry of Economy-General Directorate of Statistics and Census, in partnership with UNICEF, launched a virtual space to publish key indicators on children and adolescents. As a result of this initiative, CONNA joined the partnership to develop a national indicators system for children and adolescents. In response to the increased demand for data, six national institutions (MINED, MINSAL, ISNA, the Attorney General's Office, Legal Medicine Institute and the General Directorate of Migration) were invited to provide relevant data for the system.

Building on the successful experience related to the first round of MICS, the National Health Institute, with UNICEF’s support, completed a plan to conduct the second MICS in 2019.

As part of efforts to draw attention to the situation of specific groups, UNICEF El Salvador provided technical support to CONAIPD to elaborate a study on the characterization of people

with disabilities in El Salvador based on a 2015 survey. The study, which is based on the Washington Group pilot module to measure disability through surveys, includes a chapter on children and adolescents. The study is pending approval from CONAIPD's board and will be launched in 2018 and used as an advocacy tool to eliminate the identified gaps in the realization of the rights of children with disabilities.

As a follow-up to the implementation of the index to measure the quality of residential care programmes completed in 2016, ISNA, with UNICEF's support, updated its data collection tools. The online application, which is being adapted to meet ISNA's quality standards, will allow a closer monitoring of the quality of care by residential care institutions and their compliance with national standards, policies and laws.

The Country Office expanded its partnership with TECHO, a leading NGO with youth participation, and conducted additional interviews with children and parents to understand their perceptions and needs regarding public interventions. In total, 90 focus groups were conducted, reaching 500 participants, including approximately 150 girls and 140 mothers. The result of this initiative will be published in 2018 and will be used to design a mechanism to gather children's opinions in real time and evaluate their needs for social programmes in order to strengthen comprehensive and specialized monitoring mechanisms for children.

As part of its efforts to influence public opinion on issues affecting children, the Country Office built an innovative partnership with Azoro, a cultural association, to raise awareness on children's rights through fine art. A theatrical play entitled 'If You Were Not Born' reached more than 2,000 children and adults in various municipalities. The play helped stimulate debates about issues such as child poverty, violence and gender inequality, and ways to address these issues and foster positive behaviours towards children. Azoro is also working on a new play that will focus on child development and the importance of child-oriented public policies.

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

### **Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, the Country Office initiated new partnerships with key actors in the private sector. It supported FUNDEMAS, the leading NGO on corporate social responsibility, in the organization of its 5th Annual Meeting, which was attended by about 500 private-sector leaders and broadcasted on two major national television channels. As a follow-up to the meeting, in 2018, together with FUNDEMAS, the Country Office will focus on the identification of best practices regarding collaboration with the private sector on child development that can be used as a reference for other companies.

UNICEF, with the Escuela Superior de Economía y Negocios (High School of Economics and Business), developed the first comprehensive mapping of NGOs, foundations and companies providing services for children in El Salvador in order to understand their roles and contributions to children's issues, better coordinate efforts with government institutions and improve the level and quality of public investment in children. This study analysed the geographical distribution of private organizations working for children and identified gaps between service provision and children's needs. The study also examined five specific organizations to assess the relevance of their interventions and identify best practices and lessons learned. The report, which will be launched in 2018, will be used as an advocacy tool for the setting up of coordination mechanisms between the Government and civil society partners to ensure that their

interventions effectively target vulnerable children and maximize the return of investment by the public and private sectors.

The Country Office acted as conveyor and facilitator to bring the best innovative ideas to El Salvador. In that sense, UNICEF El Salvador facilitated the visit of a key expert on intergenerational account to present this innovative methodology in El Salvador. One outcome of the visit was that key actors, including the Minister of Finance, representatives from the private sector, high-level government officials in the Technical Secretariat and the presidential candidates from the main political parties, expressed their willingness to support the development of a case study specifically for El Salvador. The methodology was also presented to the media through interviews by *El Faro*, a leading Salvadoran online newspaper, and gained public attention through articles registering nearly 5,700 views by the end of 2017.

Under the general guidance of the leading expert on intergenerational accounting, the Country Office is currently working with the Ministry of Finance, SETEPLAN, statistics authorities and research consultants to make long-term projections of public finance in El Salvador, identify potential intergenerational inequality, and provide recommendations for more sustainable and equative fiscal policy, with an emphasis on providing evidence of the high return of investments on children. The Country Office will use the opportunity of the electoral year in 2018 to present the results of this case study to presidential candidates, analysts and advisers and leading academics to place child investment on the public agenda and in political debates.

**OUTPUT 4** Civil society organizations have tools and mechanisms to access data and information about programmes and investments in children.

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

Through a multi-stakeholder partnership, UNICEF developed the first implementation strategy of a national birth registration system, which will be a key tool for the Government to register all Salvadoran children at birth, provide a single identification document with a personal number assigned, and monitor accessibility to welfare services during the entire life cycle.

To implement this initiative, a working group was established with SETEPLAN and the National Registry of Natural Persons, and a roadmap and action plan were developed to launch the single registration system, which will be key to better target social programmes for children. Additionally, two research documents were developed based on a review of the existing national registration systems, considering legal, political, institutional, technological and financial aspects, to provide recommendations on the systems' reform. The Country Office and SETEPLAN also developed a business process flowchart to understand and visualize current administrative birth registration processes followed by MINSAL hospitals and municipal governments with a view of identifying and improving bottlenecks and gaps.

It is expected that the proposal on the implementation strategy will be validated by the Government at the national and municipal level in 2018. This will enable the Country Office to expand its scope of works, and in particular revisit the link between the registration system and existing information platforms of social services, including education, health and social protection, and advocate for an integrated programme planning and monitoring tool.

Lessons learned

Document Type/Category	Title
Innovation	'I Am Music' (Soy Música) Music for Peaceful Coexistence