

## Honduras

---

### Executive Summary

During 2015 UNICEF Honduras continued to strike a balance between its upstream work, characterised by evidence-generation on determinants of exclusion as a basis for advocacy at the highest political levels, and downstream support, concerned mainly with education and early childhood development (ECD) in priority municipalities. At the same time the emergency in the "dry corridor" caused by one of the worst droughts in recent years required a humanitarian response in the most affected areas.

The main results achieved were:

- Implementation of the ECD policy advanced through the "Raising Children with Love" strategy. The Government formalised the National Inter-institutional Commission and two Department-level commissions tasked with coordinating support and interventions for ECD. More than 10,000 mothers and fathers, mostly indigenous peoples, were mobilised to implement community-level activities in which religious and community leaders also participated.
- The process for decentralising education has led to programming that is more responsive to local needs. With the implementation of the 'Plan for Universalisation of Pre-basic Education', net enrolment at this level rose from 37.5 per cent in 2014 to 49 per cent in 2015 in the five UNICEF priority Departments. The C4D strategy for Inclusive and quality education played a key role in social mobilisation and in increasing demand for education among the population.
- With UNICEF support, the Government of Honduras was able to advance in institutionalising the measurement and monitoring of public investments in children. With the participation of NGOs, it validated and approved a roadmap for institutionalising work on public financing, succeeding to date in several areas: i) reaching a consensus on a measurement methodology and tools, ii) collection and classification of data on financing in 25 government institutions, and iii) preparation of a periodic report on spending for children in 2014. Evidence was generated for advocating for greater and better-targeted investment in the 2016 budget, and the Government's capacity for equity-focussed budgeting was strengthened.
- In collaboration with Plan International, World Vision, Child Fund and Save the Children, UNICEF carried out a rapid assessment of the effects of the drought on children (on education, migration, violence and nutrition) and, together with other agencies, provided humanitarian assistance for water supply, sanitation and nutrition in the most affected municipalities.

Shortfalls and challenges experienced during the year were:

- The restructuring of the Ministry of Health (MoH), intended for implementation of the National Health Model approved in 2013, delayed the definition of normative processes and technical support at central level. As a result, the decentralisation and outsourcing of health services progressed slowly. It was not possible to consolidate the equity approach in priority departments as had been planned, which had repercussions on access to and the quality of health and

nutrition service delivery for children in the poorest municipalities.

- Legislative reforms related to children and the family introduced in 2013, and the pace of subsequent institutional reorganisation for strengthening the system for protection of child rights, slowed down during the year. Creating the structure for the new Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family (DINAF), has been a slow process. UNICEF will continue to advocate for and support the development of a coordinated and long-term approach to child protection, promoting inter-institutional and programmatic linkages with NGOs for protecting the most disadvantaged children.

Strategic partnerships during the year included:

- The partnership with municipal governments was key to implementing the community-based ECD strategy known as "Raising Children with Love". This helped inter-sectoral coordination between government institutions, linking government and civil society efforts on the ground, and obtaining additional funding allocations for municipal budgets for programme implementation.

- The partnership within the Round Table for Cooperation in Education, aimed at supporting the plan for universalisation of pre-basic education, resulted in significant progress during its first year of implementation, improving school access for five-year olds in the poorest Departments in the country. Coordinated advocacy and planning resulted in firm commitments and allocations from Government and partners.

- As a result of collaboration with UN High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF Mexico and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNICEF helped to strengthen the capacity of Honduran consulates in the USA, Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador to protect the rights of Honduran child migrants detained in those countries. Consular officials received orientation on key migrant protection issues, the application of a consular protocol for interviewing unaccompanied children and identifying children requiring special protection upon their return to Honduras.

## Humanitarian Assistance

*Irregular migration of children:* From August 2014 until the UN's protection cluster was deactivated in February 2015, UNICEF led the UN response to the humanitarian emergency created by the repatriation of thousands of unaccompanied child migrants. During 2015 UNICEF continued to provide support for the emotional recovery of the affected returnee children through the "Return to Happiness" programme, integrating in into regular programming. Training was provided for 30 staff from Government and civil society institutions, 29 municipal programme coordinators and 190 adolescent volunteers. Almost 3,000 children from 16 "push" municipalities benefitted from the activities. Around 25 per cent of children had shown symptoms of emotional distress as a result of their experience. After the programme, the number of children manifesting such symptoms fell to 13 per cent.

*Drought:* Since mid-2014 Honduras has been facing one of the most severe droughts in its history, comparable in severity to the prolonged drought of 1997 and 1998, exacerbating the vulnerability of children living in 146 municipalities in the country's "dry corridor" which is home to almost 1.35 million people. The drought is associated with and has allegedly been intensified by the El Niño phenomenon. The effects of this event are likely to be felt well into 2016.

In September 2014, the UN Country Team prepared a multi-agency humanitarian response plan for the drought. In November, UNICEF received US\$272,700 for water and sanitation activities

and US\$40,800 for nutrition. Funds were used in early 2015. In water and sanitation, UNICEF support was implemented in cooperation with Save the Children, World Vision, Child Fund, Action Aid and Water for the People and benefited approximately 1,700 families. Main actions involved the delivery of 1,588 water filters, the improvement of 60 community wells and hygiene promotion. UNICEF's partners ensured that women actively participated in decision-making processes at the community level. In nutrition, UNICEF, WFP and PAHO implemented joint activities, including monitoring of the nutritional status of 6,000 children and nutritional sensitisation for their families. Additionally, 85 health workers and 248 community leaders received training in key nutrition practices, food preparation, breastfeeding and detection of malnutrition. UNICEF and its partners provided four regional hospitals with formula F-75 and F-100 for the treatment of acute malnutrition, and 28 health centres with anthropometric equipment for nutritional surveillance of vulnerable children.

In June 2015 the Government again declared an emergency for the same 146 drought-affected municipalities and subsequently launched an international appeal for help. The UN Humanitarian Team prepared a response plan and the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA), in coordination with UNICEF and other UN agencies, applied for emergency (CERF) funds. UNICEF assumed leadership for the nutrition; education; protection; and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sectors. UNICEF also applied for funds for water and sanitation support for 1,760 families and nutrition interventions for 6,348 children with moderate or severe acute malnutrition. Funds were approved (US\$300,000 for WASH and US\$107,000 for Nutrition) and activities initiated.

As there was no comprehensive information on the impact of the drought on children, UNICEF, along with Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision and ChildFund undertook an assessment in selected communities in four Departments. The assessment looked at whether or not violence, including gender-based violence against children, internal displacement and migration, and school drop-out increased as a consequence of the drought. The information was intended to complement assessments already completed on food security. Initial assessments revealed that the number of children forced to work had increased (among 12-to-17 year-olds) and in almost 10 per cent of households the drought had contributed to increased migration of children, whilst in 21 per cent of households there were children who were not enrolled in school.

*Displaced indigenous children:* In late October, UNHCR reported that 229 indigenous persons, including 141 children and 52 women, had been displaced from Nicaragua to the Mosquitia area of Honduras, allegedly due to land disputes between indigenous groups and settlers. UNHCR warned that the women and children were in very poor health, with children suffering from malnutrition, and lacked food and water. The Government was able to provide immediate help whilst UNICEF, in coordination with the national emergency agency, COPECO, sent hygiene and recreational kits, and its NGO partners distributed water and purification filters. UNICEF also persuaded the Ministry of Education to provide school-in-a-box and ECD kits to enable the displaced children to continue their education, and provided support for teacher training. At the time of this report, the number of displaced persons had increased to over 1,600. UNHCR, UNICEF and their partners continued to monitor the situation closely.

## Mid-term Review of the Strategic Plan

An exercise to harmonise the ongoing 2012-2016 Country Programme with the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014-2017 was carried out in April 2014, as part of the mid-term review (MTR) process. The main challenge was to transform into Outcomes the programme component

results formulated at the impact level, and transform intermediate results - which had initially been formulated as outcomes - into Outputs under the new structure. Nevertheless the exercise proved to be a good opportunity to review the theory of change underpinning the programme of cooperation. Some key lessons learned and experiences of the first two years of the Strategic Plan's application are described below.

Need for strengthening the inter-sectoral approach: Programmes supported by UNICEF have by and large been sectoral in nature (health, nutrition, WASH, HIV/AIDS, education, child protection); largely a reflection of the way the State is structured. Whilst this did facilitate planning interventions and inputs, it led to cooperation being segmented and to a lack of coordination instead of an integrated, more holistic approach to problems. Working inter-sectorally allows the determinants of exclusion to be tackled more effectively.

The Government of Honduras has made significant advances in inter-sectoral coordination to achieve results for the most excluded population groups. In early childhood development, it recognised the need to coordinate its interventions in health, nutrition, water, sanitation and HIV/AIDS through the leadership of the Ministry of Health. Starting in 2014 UNICEF also identified the need for a much more integrated approach within the programme of cooperation. The Integrated Early Childhood Development Programme represented an effort to approach children's and adolescents' rights in a more comprehensive and coordinated manner. Reflecting this, the Honduras Country Office decided to integrate outcomes related to health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, water and sanitation into a single outcome on access to integrated quality services for early childhood development. Political support for the integrated approach came via a Presidential executive decree.

The integrated approach was successfully implemented, primarily among indigenous families and communities in the poorest Departments of the country. Government institutions were able to coordinate closely on strategies and methodologies, which reduced the dispersion of efforts and duplication of community interventions. The Government started developing a 'roadmap for integrated care in early childhood', to be implemented in 2016 as a pilot in priority Departments.

As part of the analysis of barriers and bottlenecks in the MTR, UNICEF Honduras, given the levels of violence against children in homes, communities and schools, identified the importance of addressing social and cultural norms to prevent all forms of violence and recommended the inclusion of a component of behaviour-change communication (C4D). It is suggested therefore to introduce C4D as one of UNICEF's corporate strategies. Additionally, UNICEF Honduras, a 'donor-orphan' country, is facing resource constraints and remains highly dependent on income from thematic funds, global set-aside funding and regular resources (RR). It is strongly suggested to ensure that the current minimum levels of RR is maintained, while at the same time adjustments could be made to criteria for allocation of global set-aside and thematic funds, re-orienting more of such resources to 'donor-orphan' regions, such as Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

The equity approach in practice: Implementing the equity approach in Honduras, officially a middle-income country, requires a balance between upstream and downstream work, a two-way process: on the one hand, generating evidence on exclusion and its determinants, transforming it into strong advocacy messages for decision-makers at the highest political levels, and promoting dialogue on policies and budgets for social inclusion. On the other hand, it has meant confronting the specific challenges the country faces in implementing policy decisions and taking them to scale, taking into account institutional weaknesses and budgetary restrictions. From a theoretical point of view, inequities in access to services can be resolved through

distributive socio-economic policies; in practice this has been neither easy nor something that can be achieved quickly.

Implementation at the local level first requires that a set of interventions be developed as a model that can then be taken by the Government and scaled-up through national policies and programmes.

MoRES has been very useful in generating evidence on inequities. Nevertheless, greater effort is needed to focus on monitoring national policies and strategies rather than UNICEF programmes. Independent evaluation needs to be strengthened in order to generate solid and reliable evidence.

## Summary Notes and Acronyms

AMP- Annual management plan  
C4D- Communication for development  
CEDs - School Development Councils  
CENISS/NSSIC- National Social Sector Information Centre  
CMT- Country management team  
COMDES - Municipal Councils for Educational Development  
CONADEH - National Commissioner for Human Rights National Human Rights Institution  
COP21 - Climate Conference, Paris, France 2015  
COPECO- Permanent Contingency Commission  
CP- Country Programme  
CPD- Country Programme document  
DINAF- Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family  
ECD - Early childhood development  
GAP- Gender action plan  
GAVI- The Vaccine Alliance  
GSSC- Global Shared Services Centre  
HACT- Harmonised approach to cash transfers  
IMEP - Integrated monitoring and evaluation plan  
ITSS - Information technology solutions and services  
JJS - Juvenile justice system  
LACRO - Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Office  
LTA - Long-term agreement  
M&E - Monitoring and evaluation  
NGOs - Non-governmental organisations  
OCHA - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs  
PF4C - Public financing for children  
PAHO - Pan-American Health Organization  
PAIPI - National Policy on Integrated Early Childhood Care  
PAS - Performance appraisal system  
PMIAJ- Municipal programmes for children and youth  
RENPI – National Early Childhood Registration System  
SEDIS - Ministry for Development and Social Inclusion  
SITAN - Situation analysis  
SMEPP- System for monitoring and evaluation of public policies  
SOC - Security Operation Centre  
SOP - Standard operating procedures  
UNCT - United Nations Country Team

UNDSS - United Nations Department of Safety and Security  
UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund  
UNHCR - United Nations High Commission for Refugees  
UPBE - Universalisation of pre-basic education  
WASH - Water, sanitation and hygiene  
WFP - World Food Programme

## Capacity Development

Capacity development strategies constitute a key element of the Country Programme and have been directed at three levels: (a) Central Government level - strengthening the normative and regulatory capabilities of key social cabinet institutions; (b) local level - strengthening the capacity of government institutions for decentralised management in 18 priority municipalities, with an emphasis on education; and (c) increasing the capacity of rights-holders to demand services and of community networks to participate in development. Some examples are:

- Public policy monitoring capacity: as part of the effort to strengthen the System for Monitoring and Evaluation of Public Policies (SMEPP), UNICEF helped develop the methodological framework and instruments for monitoring the Government's National Social Development Strategy with a view to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of its implementation.
- Social investment with equity: Government technical capacity for measuring and monitoring budgets for children was enhanced during 2015. UNICEF trained technical staff from the Ministry of Finance, DINAF (the Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family) and the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion.
- Decentralisation of the education sector: In support of the Government's policy on decentralisation of education, UNICEF continued strengthening the Ministry of Education in the development of the technical and managerial capacities of teams and structures at departmental and municipal levels, aimed at advancing the implementation of the Plan for Universalisation of Pre-basic education and improving the quality of education.
- Increasing enrolment at pre-basic level and participation in management of education: As part of the C4D strategy in education, support continued to be provided for strengthening the capacity of the Municipal Councils for Educational Development and community-level school development councils. A census of out-of-school children was carried out and timely, age-appropriate enrolment of all children was promoted, especially for pre-basic and Grade 1.

## Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

During the year several studies were completed (not published yet) within the framework of the situation analysis (SITAN). Whilst being used as a basis for developing the next Country Programme, the studies also provided evidence for ongoing advocacy with Government authorities and for technical assistance in reorienting national programmes.

*Child Poverty:* UNICEF Honduras developed estimates for child poverty using two approaches: income-based and multi-dimensional. The methodology for measuring multi-dimensional child poverty, based on the demographic and health survey and household survey was used during technical discussions with the Government committee set up to establish an official 'Index of Multidimensional Poverty' in Honduras. The study on child poverty and a study on social vulnerability of children constitute the main evidence for advocacy with the Government aimed at re-orienting the country's social protection policies.



*Determinants of child migration:* in collaboration with the National Social Sector Information Centre (CENISS/NSSIC), a study was carried out to obtain a deeper analysis of the causes of child migration, how children actually migrate, the risks they face during transit and how they are detained and repatriated. The study provided an explanatory model of the phenomenon of migration and proposed a basis for identifying early warning indicators for irregular migration from communities. The results of the study will be analysed and discussed with Government and civil society institutions participating in the response to child migration.

*Determinants of educational exclusion among adolescents:* This study provided the basis for UNICEF's continuing work with the Ministry of Education to make education policy more responsive to out-of-school adolescents and those at risk of dropping out. It was also the basis for designing more flexible teaching and learning modalities for the 3rd cycle of basic education (Grades 7 to 9) and strategies for enhanced learning.

## Partnerships

*Strengthened partnership with international NGOs in the Global Movement for Children:* Regular meetings and technical sessions led to much more productive collaboration between member organisations than in the past. The group moved towards a consensus on how best to strengthen the capacity of the national children's entity, DINAF, to play its normative and regulatory role in child protection. Agreement was also reached on implementing local protection models in 35 priority municipalities, starting in 2016, combining organisations' capacities and resources.

*Partnership against child marriage:* The UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women and Plan International joined UNICEF Honduras in forming an alliance aimed at eliminating the exceptions to the Family Code, which allow marriage under the age of 18. Each participating agency brought added value to the partnership's efforts. UNICEF led advocacy with congressional leaders and provided technical guidance for the anti-child-marriage agenda. Important steps in the legislative process were achieved but the work of the partnership will need to continue to ensure that the goal of implementing effective legislation is reached.

*Round Table on Cooperation in Education:* UNICEF continued to lead the local Round Table group on universalisation of pre-basic education (UPBE). The partnership sponsored the First International Symposium on UPBE, which successfully reached out to the private sector, international NGOs and cooperation entities, government institutions and municipalities to encourage coordination of efforts and harmonised investment in the sector. The Government allocated US\$ 7.6 million to start phased implementation of the plan. Germany's Development Bank (KfW) provided resources for school infrastructure whilst the Organisation of Ibero-American States (OIS) and the IDB financed most of the costs of the survey of out-of-school children. German Cooperation (GIZ) provided support for implementation of the teaching-learning model in priority municipalities. The plan foresees the integration of an additional 51,700 out-of-school children by 2018.

## External Communication and Public Advocacy

UNICEF Honduras carried out two major initiatives in communications and advocacy in 2015:

(i) The "Raising Children with Love" initiative focussed on two departments with major populations of indigenous people, with the objective of promoting a supportive environment for ECD. Local radio announcers, religious leaders and the Child Communicators Network helped

mobilise people and spread key messages. The campaign managed to sensitise and mobilise some 10,000 people in favour of ECD, and convinced municipal councils to invest in the "Raising Children with Love" programme. It also created a group of community volunteers to support family education activities.

(ii) The "Let's build a better future for our children: to live happily in Honduras is their right" campaign was part of the communications strategy on irregular child migration. It was carried for six months by the Corporación Televicentro TV and radio channels, which have the largest audiences in the country, broadcasting on a daily basis seven TV and 12 radio spots through the Emisoras Unidas radio network of 100 stations.

Social networks have created a direct channel of communication with UNICEF's key audiences, helping to explain programme cooperation, clarify doubts, promote key messages and involve programme beneficiaries at the community level. The number of Facebook page followers increased from 4,382 to 12,660 during 2015, with the number of "likes" per post increasing from 31 to 109. Comments and sharing also increased. The number of young people becoming active volunteers for UNICEF grew; they received communications materials for dissemination within their own networks. A volunteer database was created to promote participation in public events such as presentations of publications, discussion forums and other encounters with young people. Training in the use of social media was included in municipal and community-level activities receiving UNICEF support, to strengthen the quality of adolescents' inputs in social networks

### South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

UNICEF Honduras has promoted South-South and Triangular cooperation with countries in the region in two areas: ECD and protection of children against violence and abuse. The Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO) provided valuable support in identifying countries which have examples of good practices that could be adapted to the Honduran context and centres of excellence for capacity development.

The main ways in which such cooperation was carried out were: (i) visits by senior Government officials to examine good practices or undertake short study stays; (ii) brief visits to Honduras by experts and officials from Cuba, Colombia and Ecuador for exchange of experiences and training of local personnel; and (iii) longer-duration visits by experts from Cuba and Colombia to help develop and implement methodologies and demonstration models for subsequent replication. UNICEF-Honduras staff helped to develop conceptual frameworks, adapt methodologies and tools to local contexts and strengthen technical skills of local professionals and volunteers.

The development of Early Warning Systems (EWS) on forced displacement caused by violence was one example of successful cooperation. In collaboration with UNHCR, UNICEF Honduras facilitated an exchange between the Colombian Defensoria del Pueblo (the country's national human rights institution) and eight Honduran state institutions led by the Ministry for International Cooperation and the National Social Sector Information Centre, to study Colombia's experience in implementing EWS on human rights violations.

Inter-country collaboration was also used to strengthen the capacity of Honduras's Inter-Institutional Commission for Early Childhood at the national level and in two Departments. With cooperation from the Government of Cuba, implementation began of the community-based ECD strategy "Raising Children with Love". This included training of multi-disciplinary teams and community facilitators in four municipalities



## Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages

Continuing a process started in 2014, UNICEF supported the Government in developing an integrated and inter-sectoral vision for early childhood care. The Government established the legal framework, which institutionalises the inter-sectoral strategy. UNICEF, with cooperation from the Government of Colombia, supported the establishment and training of Department-level inter-institutional commissions in two Departments where the pilot phase of the national ECD strategy was being implemented. The commissions include representatives from government institutions, NGOs and community groups. A set of key institutional interventions and roles for ECD was defined, reducing duplication in service delivery. An information system registers and monitors the support provided, to ensure that comprehensive care is provided in an integrated manner. One lesson is that the inter-sectoral approach required adjustments in the operation of UNICEF Honduras. A new cluster was created to support work in ECD, which included education, protection, communication and M&E staff and specialists. The result was a more integrated vision for approaching structural determinants, institutional service provision and the demand for services by the population.

Municipal Programmes for Children and Youth is a strategic platform for supporting integrated development for adolescents. UNICEF and UNFPA continued to support the expansion of adolescent-friendly health services in sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention. UNFPA equipped health units and trained health personnel in 39 municipalities, whilst UNICEF supported communication and education activities designed to increase demand for and use of adolescent health services. The demand for adolescent-friendly health services was estimated to have increased by almost 64 per cent during 2015 compared to 2014, with almost 15,000 visits of adolescents to health units being reported. The main lesson learned is that coordination is not only a matter of joint financial resources but also of joint planning, implementation and monitoring, with a shared objective of reaching common goals.

## Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

Working to reinforce capacities of duty-bearers and rights-holders is a key strategy of UNICEF in Honduras. For example, UNICEF continued to support quality education by strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Education to ensure access, availability, quality of learning and retention of students in primary and lower-secondary school. Strategies included alliances with international cooperation partners and C4D to encourage children to stay in school and raise awareness in communities of the importance of education. As a result of advocacy efforts by UNICEF and partners, the Government included an important financial allocation in the 2016 national budget for universalisation of pre-basic education in the "dry corridor", a vulnerable area in the south of the country affected by drought and where school enrolment rates are very low.

The focus on the most marginalised children continued. As an example, UNICEF supported reunification of 1,200 institutionalised children with their families, communities and in some cases with NGOs.

As the Committee on the Rights of the Child issued concluding observations in 2015, UNICEF is assisting the Government with their dissemination and to set up a monitoring system. UNICEF provided support to the National Human Rights Institution (CONADEH) by assisting in the design of an individual complaints mechanism and providing support for the preparation of reports on juvenile justice and school violence, among others.

Accountability principle: UNICEF assisted the Government to monitoring and assess the

effectiveness and efficiency of social protection programmes. UNICEF also supported the setting up of a committee to analyse the Government's budget allocation for children, which has started to produce evidence for advocacy and rights-based planning.

## Gender Mainstreaming and Equality

*Gender Review:* With the assistance of LACRO and a stretch assignment by the UNICEF-Bolivia gender focal point, UNICEF Honduras conducted a comprehensive gender review to assess compliance of the current Programme with the gender action plan (GAP) and make recommendations for thematic and mainstreaming priorities. Given the levels of gender-based violence (GBV) in Honduras, the review suggested programmatic actions for the new Country Programme in that regard, including tackling GBV in emergencies, in the workings of the judicial system and violence-prevention in schools, as well as strategies for girls' empowerment. A stronger gender perspective in the new SITAN was also recommended. For the current Country Programme, all sections agreed to prioritise gender-related interventions, and key gender indicators were added to ongoing programme planning in all areas.

*Child Marriage:* For the International Day of the Girl Child, UNICEF, in partnership with UN Women, UNFPA and Plan International, designed a strategy aimed at eliminating the legal exceptions that allow marriage for girls under 18. All agencies advocated with the Chair and Vice-Chairs of Congress to pursue legal reforms. A press conference resulted in wide coverage of the topic in national and local media. Advocacy will continue during the coming months until the discussions lead to legislation. The Supreme Court already issued a favourable opinion on the reform of the relevant Articles.

"Growing up together" as women and girls is a key and ground-breaking part of the strategy for the programme "Raising children with love". It brings women together in the community to raise their self-esteem and give value to the roles they play, as well as a space for exchange of views and inter-generational dialogue. Whilst sharing best practices on raising children, they share life stories and promote free expression and participation of women. In the pilot phase there were over 1,000 participants, mostly indigenous Lenca. Men in the communities felt motivated enough to participate, appreciating the importance of appropriate care in early childhood, the role that women play in the process and the value of having both sexes fully involved in childrearing.

## Environmental Sustainability

UNICEF and the NGO Agua para el Pueblo (Water for the People) have been supporting water and sanitation improvement efforts in schools in Mosquitia since 2011. Mosquitia is a geographically isolated area in the department of Gracias a Dios to which access is mostly by small planes or boats, and is inhabited by four indigenous peoples: Misquitos, Tawahkas, Pech and Garifuna. Its location in the north-eastern part of the Atlantic coast makes it highly prone to natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods and tropical depressions.

During the first months of 2015 water and sanitation strategies helped to improve the lives of 2,269 children attending 13 schools and also benefited the communities living around the schools, allowing them access to clean water. Artesian well pumps were built in each school as well as rainwater harvesting systems (tanks and roof mechanisms). As rainfall in this region is frequent and abundant, UNICEF is supporting efforts to promote environment-friendly, sustainable and culturally sensitive water collection systems to benefit communities facing two water-related problems: saltwater intrusion and the contamination of groundwater wells during flooding by sea water or from polluted rivers. Boys and girls have accompanied the process with

reflections, suggestions and commitment to improving hygiene practices and involving their families in establishing healthy living environments.

Starting in October 2015 the programme was expanded to 20 more schools and their surrounding communities, with a new strategy aimed at helping to create resilience to climate change, involving almost 3,700 girls and boys.

According to the Global Climate Risk Index for 2015, Honduras is among the three countries in the world that are most vulnerable to climate change (the others being Myanmar and Haiti). In view of this, a study on environment, climate change and children will be carried out as part of the new SITAN. Environmental sustainability will be a key strategy in the new Country Programme for 2017-2021.

Honduras was part of a collection of case studies prepared by the UK National Committee, which describes recent or ongoing initiatives to protect children from the danger of climate change around the world, launched at the Conference on Global Climate Change (COP21).

### **Effective Leadership**

The country management team (CMT) provided leadership in the preparation and approval of the annual management plan (AMP) and subsequent reviews, ensuring: (a) full clarity of roles and responsibilities; (b) effectiveness of coordination mechanisms; (c) appropriate membership of committees, panels and thematic groups; (d) monitoring of management and emergency risk indicators and mechanisms for risk mitigation. The risks assessed UNICEF Honduras at the beginning of the year continued to be relevant within the country context. At the end of the year the business continuity plan was reviewed and a revised version prepared.

All management and performance indicators were closely monitored by the CMT and necessary follow-up instigated. One key result was that the 31 per cent of direct cash transfers with pending liquidations over nine months were reduced to 2.8 per cent in September, and by the end of December there were no liquidations outstanding over six months.

The Global Staff Survey revealed staff member concerns, mainly in the areas of workload, professional development and work/life balance. The Office leadership took steps to promote a climate of open dialogue, stronger cross-linkages among programmes and zero tolerance of abuse of power in order to foster respectful and team-oriented working relationships.

As lead agency for the harmonised approach to cash transactions (HACT), UNICEF led the macro-assessment process to ensure adequate awareness of the public financial management environment, in preparation for the next Programme cycle 2017-2021. The audits of three implementing partners that reached the established level of disbursements in 2015 were completed. Draft reports for the macro-assessment and audits were due to be presented before the end of 2015.

A new Representative assumed duties at the end of August just after the departure of the outgoing Representative, ensuring continuity in office leadership.

### **Financial Resources Management**

At the beginning of the year the Office decided to strengthen key procedures and quality assurance systems. One key area was donor reporting. In March the CMT agreed to fully adopt standard operating procedures for donor reports, with a view to ensuring that reports are

prepared on time and meet organisational quality standards, especially for results-based reporting. As a result, improvements in quality have been recognised; for instance, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada, UNICEF's main cooperation partner, acknowledged the good quality of the 2015 donor report.

In line with decisions mandated for UN House, the CMT agreed to adopt measures for energy-saving through control and preventive maintenance of the air-conditioning system and lighting. This resulted in a 19 per cent savings (almost \$4,400) for UNICEF. In addition, the CMT recommended that the Office monitor administrative costs more rigorously by using comparative expenditure tables on a monthly basis.

Fund advances and liquidations were prepared and approved locally, and sent electronically to the Panama Hub for certification by the regional operations manager. The process can take two days when an error or mistake is detected, which may cause delays in new disbursements.

The Honduras Office joined the Global Shared Services centre (GSSC) on 1 September as part of the first group of pilot countries. Thus payment requests are made through the GSSC web and payments to suppliers, consultants, UNICEF staff and partners are made electronically. So far no difficulties or inconveniences were experienced with the new system.

As a result of monitoring and follow-up measures adopted by the Office, as of 4th of December 2015, no direct cash transfers were outstanding for more than six months.

Overall budget implementation for the year (as of 4th of December 2015) reached US\$3 million: 93 percent of implementation for RR, 94 per cent for other resources (OR) and 92 per cent for the institutional budget.

## **Fund-raising and Donor Relations**

The Programme of Cooperation for 2012-2016 was affected by limited availability of additional funding during the first half of the cycle, the consequence of a very narrow donor base. In 2014 Canada, one of the few bilateral donors to have continued to support Honduras over the last few years, approved an extension of its support for UNICEF, adding to funding from the UK National Committee and thematic funds. During 2015, the Office received thematic fund allocations totalling US\$550,237. By the end of the year, OR funds raised had amounted to 86 per cent of the ceiling established by the Country Programme document; 91 per cent of available funds were utilised.

With limited external funds, the Office prepared and submitted just five donor reports during the year; submission of the report on thematic funding had to be completed somewhat later than planned due to unexpected delays in obtaining adequate information on key results. In order to improve the quality of reports, ensure adherence to deadlines and clarify responsibilities in the process, standard operating procedures were developed and approved by the CMT in March. The procedures include a quality control element using an outside editor.

## **Evaluation**

For 2015 the integrated monitoring and evaluation plan (IMEP) included 12 studies and five M&E capacity development activities for programme partners. The large number of studies derived primarily from the needs of the SITAN in preparation for the next Country Programme. Multi-dimensional child poverty, social investment for children, and determinants of irregular child migration were among the areas covered. By the end of the year, it had been decided to

defer five studies to the first semester of 2016 in order to obtain greater Government involvement in their implementation.

With the need to focus on studies for the SITAN, no evaluations were carried out during 2015. Nevertheless, work began on a study of exclusion of adolescents and its determinants in the five distinct regions of the country, focussing primarily on sexual and reproductive health, violence, irregular migration and participation. The study will help to orient the adolescent development strategies UNICEF is implementing through municipal-level action. It will also be the basis for future impact evaluations.

UNICEF-Honduras supported the Government in: a) the conceptual design of a system of indicators for the education sector; b) a monitoring system for child migrants – a process with several stages, from the provision of support services at Honduran Consulates abroad through community re-integration by local authorities; c) the development of a system for monitoring and follow-up of integrated early childhood care interventions; and d) the development of instruments for implementing the ‘single system for the evaluation of social policies’, which was officially adopted by the social sector Cabinet for evaluating sector activities and programmes.

### Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

The UN Operations Management Team, chaired again by UNAIDS, met on a monthly basis throughout the year to discuss, analyse, authorise and approve matters related to common services. The long-term agreement for travel services remained valid until the end of the year. The UN Common Premises in Tegucigalpa are shared by seven UN agencies and the UN Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS).

In January 2015, UNFPA took over as the coordinating agency for Common Services for a two-year period. The table below summarises the UN House budget and UNICEF's share.

#### **Budget Items**

<i>Budget in US\$</i>	<i>UNICEF Share (%)</i>	
Premises 624,841	121,753	19%
Communications 34,084	6,736	20%
Security 137,497	17,052	12%
Total 796,422	145,541	17%

UNICEF's overall share of 17 per cent has remained more or less constant over the last few years, with limited opportunity or need for reductions or increases.

UN House teams have promoted much-needed savings in energy consumption through measures such as sensors in common areas, fortnightly maintenance of the AC system and programmed timing during the working day, as well as creating awareness among all staff to promote a culture of energy-saving. As a result, the energy bill for 2015 was expected to be around \$18,000, a saving of almost US\$4,400 for UNICEF (19 per cent), compared to the amount budgeted for the year.

To improve Internet connectivity, in September the Office installed increased bandwidth, raising it from 7Mbps to 15 Mbps. The change meant the annual cost of Internet services increased slightly – from US\$6,996 in 2014 to \$7,596 in 2015 (8 per cent) – which had been budgeted for. Improvements in terms of faster and more reliable Internet connections for many office functions

were tangible and appreciated and contributed to facilitating video conferences and web-meetings.

## Supply Management

Supply management continued to be a necessary, albeit relatively small, component of support for the Country Programme, particularly for channelling non-UNICEF funding. As per the new operational arrangements for the region, support was provided by the Panama Hub and all supply requests were processed promptly. No problems were experienced in the management of procurement services or in-country supply logistics.

The Return to Happiness programme continued to provide psycho-social support for returnee child migrants. As in the first phase of the programme, carried out during the 2014 migration crisis, the joint support of two staff members from the operations section was essential to meeting the programme's supply requirements in a timely and efficient manner.

At the beginning of the year the operations manager and supply assistant from the Panama Hub visited UNICEF Honduras to provide training on the proper application of norms and procedures, so important for ensuring the smooth processing of all supply requirements.

The Country Office continued to support the Government of Honduras in procurement services, provided through UNICEF's Supply Division, for the supply of vaccines and cold chain equipment for the Ministry of Health under the GAVI initiative and through PAHO funding.

In 2015 local procurement under programme and administrative budgets represented two percent of the overall Office budget. The tables below provide an overview of all supply procurement, both local and off-shore, including procurement services provided through UNICEF Honduras.

<b>UNICEF Honduras 2015</b>	<b>Value in US\$</b>
Programme supplies	1,747,254
Operational supplies	18,775
Services	321,589
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,087,618</b>

<b>Supplies channelled via Procurement Services</b>	<b>Value in US\$</b>
GAVI Funds	1,167,954
PAHO Funds	588,970
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,756,924</b>

<b>Locally managed procurement</b>	<b>Value in US\$</b>
Programme supplies	36,931
Operational supplies	18,775
Services	167,197
<b>Total</b>	<b>222,903</b>

These figures represent orders carried out and registered up to 19 November 2015.

## Security for Staff and Premises

Insecurity continued to be a major problem, mainly as a result of common criminality and the impact of organised crime, associated with drug trafficking, affecting staff safety as well as



programme delivery and monitoring. The murder rate declined from 86.5 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2011 to 62 in 2015, but is still one of the highest in the world.

Risk mitigation measures applied by the UN system included:

- continuous updating of the UNDSS database of essential information on staff, dependants, consultants and international visitors
- monitoring staff and visitors entering and exiting UN House through security cameras, trained security guards and an alarm system
- obligatory use of electronic passes.

There were no security-related incidents within the premises during the year.

Travel authorisations must be made at least 48 hours in advance and all lodging/hotels must be pre-approved by UNDSS. The services offered by the Security Operations Centre (SOC) in terms of 24/7 monitoring of staff missions and immediate provision of security alerts and updates were indispensable for mitigating risks, especially those associated with field travel. In November, UNDSS/SOC held a workshop for drivers on road security policies and practices.

UNICEF staff were able to make regular field visits to low and moderate security risk areas, and implementation of the Cooperation Programme took place without any security incidents.

The fact that the UN House building is not earthquake-proof continues to be a matter of concern for the UN Country Team (UNCT). Two possibilities are being explored: 1) moving to an earthquake-proof building; 2) requesting that the Government allocate/donate a building. Whichever option is chosen, it will require a very significant investment on the part of UN agencies in Honduras, outside their regular budgets.

## Human Resources

A revised office structure approved by the 2014 programme budget review to help focus resources on the results emerging from the MTR was implemented in 2015. Key changes included the abolition of the WASH officer post and the creation of a child survival and development specialist post.

Eighty-five per cent of performance appraisal system (PAS) reports for 2014 were completed by the end of February. The annual management plan was also approved, enabling the finalisation of PAS work plans for 2015.

The CMT reviewed the Global Staff Survey results and developed a work plan for follow-up on priority areas, primarily in work/life balance and professional/career development. Key actions included:

- Hiring temporary staff to ensure adequate coverage for programme support functions during periods of leave
- Distribution of functions and workloads more equitably
- All supervisors to ensure that professional and career development issues are discussed with supervisees as part of the regular PAS process
- More encouragement and support for staff to undertake stretch assignments or staff exchanges.

Opportunities for staff to strengthen knowledge were provided both directly by UNICEF and as part of UNCT initiatives. An inter-agency UN Cares training focussed on new staff. Current

policies on preventing discrimination in the workplace were also discussed. A series of orientations was also carried out on the "Rights Up Front", to provide staff with a stronger understanding of human rights from a UN perspective.

The Office Training Plan for 2015 included team-building and ethics. All staff completed the on-line courses. This was reinforced by a visit from the Regional Chief of Human Resources who led a workshop on ethics for all staff. Two staff participated in OCHA training on information management in emergencies. The child protection focal point underwent training-of-trainers to be able to impart training to Government staff on incorporating child rights into social sector planning.

## Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

The Office developed and adopted information tools to plan and coordinate field travel more effectively as well as to follow up on agreements in meetings and monitoring visits. A virtual library was established providing access to the most relevant office documents for all staff. Almost all desktops in the Office were replaced by laptops that meet ITSS standards – an important change as it enabled staff to work from home when required and facilitated emergency preparedness. All activities related to upgrading office systems, as defined by ITSS, were successfully carried out. Internet access was improved by increasing the bandwidth from 7 to 15 Mbps, allowing the services and applications that use it to operate more efficiently.

As a pilot office for the GSSC, the transfer and use of MyCase initially represented a challenge due to problems with platform performance. Performance improved gradually, although it has still to reach the levels of service that prevailed when operations were carried out locally. The Office continued making use of social media as a key part of the C4D strategy. During the year the number of followers of UNICEF-Honduras on Facebook increased from 4,382 to 12,660, with the number of "likes" rising from an average of 31 per post in 2014 to 109 in 2015, and an average of four comments and 21 shares for each post. The increased activity of users also generated an increase in young people and adolescents who became active volunteers for UNICEF. They received materials related to UNICEF's media campaigns for further dissemination in their social networks.

With UNICEF support a mobile phone app is under development that would allow pupils in schools to feed information into the Ministry of Education on some key indicators of the quality of education in the classroom, including attendance of teachers and reporting cases of abuse.

## Programme Components from Results Assessment Module

### ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

**OUTCOME 1** Children (boy and girls) from 0 to 6 years of age in the six priority departments, particularly those from population groups exposed to vulnerable situations, have greater access to integrated early childhood development services.

#### **Analytical Statement of Progress:**

*Political commitment by the Government to early childhood development:* During 2015 the Government, with the support of UNICEF, achieved important advances in the implementation of the national ECD strategy, "Raising Children with Love". The strategy puts into operation the national policy on integrated early childhood care (PAIPI). The ECD work plan for 2015-2016, signed by the Government and UNICEF, was formalised by the President of the Republic through an executive decree issued in a regular session of the Council of Ministers. In the same

Decree, the First Lady, who has been a strong personal advocate for ECD for some time, was designated as the Special Commissioner for ECD.

*Implementation of "Raising Children with Love" advanced through the conceptualisation and piloting of an inter-institutional management model:* UNICEF and the Government chose two Departments with high indices of social exclusion to test the inter-institutional model. Departmental inter-institutional commissions established for this purpose are comprised of Government and non-governmental representatives of high standing in the Departments. They include: officials from the ministries of Health, Education and Development and Social Inclusion, the National Registration System, DINAF, representatives of sports and culture, the Human Rights Commission, the Juvenile Justice System and Children's Defence Councils, as well as NGOs working in the area of ECD. The Government of Colombia provided support for strengthening the capacity of the commissions, based on the experience of the Colombian programme "From Zero to Forever".

*Conceptualisation of an information system for registration and monitoring of integrated care of the young child:* the national early childhood registration system, RENPI, was designed by the Government with UNICEF technical support. It consists of an internet platform that links the information systems of various government institutions responsible for the provision of integrated child care services. During 2015 progress was made in conceptualising a system for the monitoring and evaluation of integrated care and development of children from zero to six years of age, using RENPI as a platform. However, further efforts are needed to develop the information systems of various institutions before real-time monitoring can be established. This would include finding a mechanism for incorporating information generated by female community-level volunteers.

*The community level strategy for implementing "Raising Children with Love" generated widespread participation and social mobilisation for the creation of a protective environment for young children within families and communities. With technical support from UNICEF and Cuba's Latin American Centre for Pre-basic Education (CELEP), progress was made in developing the methodology and creating capacity for implementing the "Raising Children with Love" community-level strategy. The methodology and working tools used as a basis the good practices of NGOs and community organisations working in the country, reinforced by experiences from the Cuban model "Educate your Child". Various workshops were held to collectively define and develop a roadmap for implementing the strategy in five priority municipalities of Lempira and Intibucá departments which have predominantly indigenous and rural populations with high levels of poverty. The strategy is based on the capabilities of the communities themselves, including community and religious leaders, volunteers and Government family counsellors. It includes a set of community interventions and activities in communication, education, organisation and participation, self-help and mutual-support activities, all geared to early childhood care and development.*

Despite these considerable advances towards the availability of integrated early childhood development (IECD) services, a number of challenges still need to be overcome. These include: (a) the provision of institutional services needs to be properly organised in accordance with the integrated care "roadmap" for ECD; (b) key interventions or services need to be costed and adequate budgetary funds allocated by Government; (c) the network of community volunteers has to be consolidated, to ensure sustainability; and (d) the strategy, methodologies and working tools still have to be culturally adapted based on existing positive child care practices in communities.

**OUTPUT 1** The families of boys and girls below the age of six in the intervention areas have the knowledge to promote the integrated development of their children

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The community-level ECD strategy "Raising Children with Love" was developed with the technical support of Cuba's Latin-American Reference Centre for Pre-School Education. UNICEF supported the Government in implementation, which began in 2015 in the Departments of Lempira and Intibucá, selected because of their high levels of multi-dimensional child poverty and heavy concentration of indigenous and rural populations. As of late 2015, activities implemented included: a C4D strategy to sensitise and mobilise communities; training of municipal-level technical teams; and the implementation of 'Growing up Together', an inter-generational dialogue between grandmothers, mothers and daughters, bringing women together in the community to raise their self-esteem and give value to the roles they play. Government institutions, NGOs and community-level organisations were all involved.

Key results included:

*Mobilisation of around 10,000 people in support of ECD:* to carry out the communication activities 36 religious leaders, 26 professional communicators and 15 child communicators (from the PMIAJ programme) were trained, subsequently using churches, radio broadcasts and community activities to convey and spread messages about the importance of ECD and the programme.

*Municipal-level teams were trained to manage "Raising Children with Love" activities, as were community facilitators:* 43 members of the management group in four municipalities of priority Departments were trained at a four-day workshop. The management groups are responsible for implementation and monitoring of the strategy in each municipality. In addition, 37 community facilitators were trained at a five-day workshop to implement "Growing up Together" as part of the community strategy. The facilitators provide technical support to community volunteers.

*More than a thousand women – grandmothers, mothers and daughters – and their spouses/partners participated in "Growing up Together",* activities designed to increase self-esteem through inter-generational dialogue. The Raising Children with Love community strategy depends on integrating women in processes for developing childrearing skills and competencies during early childhood. "Growing up Together" is designed to raise women's self-esteem and give full recognition to the roles they play in the development of their children. The activities gather together women of different generations to get them to share their knowledge and childrearing practices. Activities also include reviving lost skills, handicrafts, traditions and games that feed into early stimulation of children from zero-to-six years of age.

**OUTPUT 2** Municipal Emergency Committees in the municipalities most vulnerable to disasters have plans for emergency preparedness and response

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The strategy for municipal emergency preparedness and response was revised for 2015 and changed from a general approach to a more specific one, focussing on ensuring care and protection in early childhood in emergency contexts. Training plans on ECD in emergencies were developed through coordination between UNICEF, Plan International and RET. In the context of the emergency situation caused by ongoing drought in the Departments of the so-called "dry corridor" in the eastern part of the country, a work plan was developed with the predominantly indigenous communities and municipalities of Lenca Eramaní to develop capacity for child protection in the face of the drought, primarily in early childhood. Work on developing

municipal plans emphasising child protection in emergencies and the consolidation of local mechanisms for monitoring the impact of drought conditions on health and nutrition will be intensified in 2016.

**OUTPUT 3** The National Registration System has the capacity to register - within the timeframe established by law - (all) births of children from ethnic and dispersed rural communities.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

According to the National Population and Housing Census of 2013, some 65,000 children were lacking birth registration documentation. The largest number of unregistered children was found in Cortés (10,914), Francisco Morazán (7,490) and Yoro (6,287) departments, among indigenous and Afro-Honduran communities. The national registration system has increased its capacity for ensuring timely registration of births, having made advances in automating municipal civil registration offices. As of 2015, 217 registration offices were automated (digitised but not on-line: local data bases are sent on compact discs to the central office for processing and consolidation); 74 have on-line dedicated links to the central system. Only seven registration offices remained to be automated, all of them located in the most isolated and dispersed parts of the Mosquitia region and the indigenous Tolupa areas of Francisco Morazan – areas that still lack electricity.

Gracias a Dios is the Department with the lowest birth registration rate; only 71.7 of births are registered. With UNICEF support a birth registration counter was opened at the regional hospital. Members of community networks were trained to help identify members of the Mosquitia indigenous groups who lack birth certificates and assist them to register immediately. As part of the implementation of the IECD strategy supported by UNICEF, during 2015 registration capacity was strengthened through training of civil registration officers at the municipal and departmental levels to promote and facilitate timely registration. Members of community networks who participate actively in identifying recently born, unregistered children were also trained in the departments of Lempira and Intibucá.

The national registration system also plays an important role in the reception and re-integration of child migrant returnees. With UNICEF support, staff in registration offices that function as reception centres in San Pedro Sula and Omoa were trained and the offices equipped. After a thorough process of checking identity papers, returnee children and adolescents can be safely reunited with their families.

**OUTPUT 4** Management teams at department level and managers of local health networks have capacity for analysing the situation of health, planning and monitoring of results for equity.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The key result during the year was the definition of services required for the integrated development of young children in Honduras. To determine and organise the services that children should receive from birth to six years of age, the National Inter-institutional Commission for ECD defined the set of services that constitute integrated care. The Government established an agreement with the Government of Chile to develop a "Critical Path for Integrated Care in Early Childhood", which determines the role that each government institution should play in providing integrated care. The major challenges that need to be overcome at this point are the lack of uniformity in decentralised structures of government institutions, the absence in some municipalities of key institutions that should be playing a role in service provision and the overwhelmingly sectoral approach prevailing among institutions.

**OUTPUT 5** The Inter-Institutional Commission for Early Childhood (CIAPI) has the capacity for strategic coordination and is managing the implementation of the national Early Childhood Development Policy in an effective inter-institutional manner.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

*PAIPI, the inter-institutional architecture required for implementing IECD, was officially established.* The system for integrated care for early childhood, "Raising Children with Love", was created via an executive decree for the purpose of contributing to the implementation and monitoring of PAIPI. The system's architecture consists of: a high-level commission composed of social sector ministers and presided over by the First Lady in her capacity as Special Commissioner for Early Childhood development and a technical commission composed of vice-ministers or directors general of the same institutions. Two department-level institutions were also set up, in Lempira and Intibucá, as well as municipal-level commissions or management groups in four municipalities of the same two departments.

*Management capacities of the inter-institutional commission for implementing the national strategy for 'Raising Children with Love' were strengthened.* Through triangular cooperation with the Government of Colombia (the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Early Childhood) training was initiated for the commissions on integrated and inter-sectoral approaches for early childhood care, as was the preparation of manuals for guiding inter-sectoral management. Local-level institutions began to operate in a more coordinated way; but the main challenge is to ensure that planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation processes are carried out jointly and that implementation is coordinated.

*The National Social Sector Information Centre, CENISS, developed capacity and methodologies for a system of indicators based on the RENPI.* Through a contract with a Colombian firm of experts in monitoring early childhood development, UNICEF helped CENISS lead the development of a system of multi-sectoral indicators based on information obtained through RENPI. The system serves to orient strategic decision-making and technical operations and contributes to harmonising care interventions required for IECD. A practical methodology was developed to serve as a tool for monitoring and follow-up of services provided to the young child by the State. The next step will be to implement the methodology at the local level, so that it supports the goal of inter-sectoral coordination.

**OUTCOME 2** A system is in place for providing children and adolescents with protection from violence in its various manifestations and forms

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF's work and support in the area of protecting children from violence led to some progress and achievements during the year, as outlined below.

*Conceptualisation and definition of a structure for a system for protecting children against violence:* With the approval of the reforms on the child and the family introduced in 2013, the country took significant steps in terms of legislation, public policies and institutional strengthening – a process for which UNICEF Honduras advocated and continued to provide technical assistance in 2015. The normative framework of the reforms defines, in broad terms, the system for protection against the various form of violence affecting children and how cases should be dealt with administratively, reserving judicial action for cases where laws have been broken. The protection system defined by law is structured at two levels, national and local. At the national level UNICEF provided technical assistance to DINAF to define its normative role and mechanisms for coordination with other institutions, such as the ministries of Education and



Health, the judicial system (police, judges, public prosecutors and defenders) and NGOs that manage programmes of direct care for child victims of violence.

The main challenge has been to transform the existing management model so that public entities, the justice system and civil society, under the overall coordination of the lead entity, DINAF, apply common criteria and coordinate their actions effectively. UNICEF contributed to the development of guidelines for defining standards and protocols for treatment and care of victims of violence, as well as to training of institutional and municipal-level technical teams so that their actions provide adequate and timely responses for victims.

*Development of a roadmap for elimination of violence against children:* To contribute to the implementation of the national policy on prevention of violence against children, in coordination with the Network of Institutions for the Rights of Children, a roadmap was developed that allows the Prevention Cabinet (a Governmental coordination structure) to coordinate the interventions of different institutions and public and civil society programmes working on violence prevention, using various methodologies and in different areas.

*Development of a local model for prevention of violence:* In 14 municipalities and more than a hundred *barrios* (neighbourhoods) a local violence-prevention model was implemented based on active participation by local actors, representatives of public institutions, municipal authorities, judicial and police operatives, NGOs and community leaders. With UNICEF support, a toolkit was developed and validated for training of local staff on violence-prevention in the three child protection contexts: family, school and community.

**OUTPUT 1** Children and adolescents and their families possess the knowledge required to prevent and provide protection from violence, including mechanisms for detection and reporting of cases.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

During 2015, more than 35,000 children and adolescents in 14 municipalities of Valle de Sula, La Ceiba and Olancho – areas with some of the highest levels of violence in the country – were oriented on the mechanisms and entities responsible for prevention, protection and reporting of complaints related to different forms of violence.

The national violence prevention programme, in coordination with the Municipal Programmes for Children and Youth (PMIAJ) and supported by UNICEF, carried out a process of disseminating and establishing a local violence-prevention model, based on the community prevention model that was tested in the Central District (Tegucigalpa). In this context, a toolbox of violence prevention instruments for training of local and municipal technical teams in priority Departments was developed.

**OUTPUT 2** Law enforcement and justice sector operatives (the Police, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Justice Ministry) have strengthened capacities for applying an integrated and rights-based approach for dealing with violence, abuse and exploitation.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In the area of application of justice a number of achievements took place during 2015.

*Delays in the judicial process for adolescents in conflict with the law were reduced.* In 2015 UNICEF assisted the Office of the Attorney General, through its five regional offices for Juvenile

Justice, to carry out a monitoring exercise to determine the extent to which the norms of the national legislation of 2013, relating to children and families, were being complied with. A sample of some 300 cases of crimes committed by adolescents was analysed. The review showed that in the northern region, 99 per cent of cases were resolved within the six-month period stipulated in the 2013 legal reform. The challenge will be to achieve similar progress in eliminating delays in other parts of the country where delays of longer than six months are common.

*Justice system staff were updated on the provisions of the reform of the Juvenile Justice System (JJS).* UNICEF collaborated with the Ministry of Justice in training on the reform of the JJS for justice staff in the 29 inter-institutional commissions operating in the north-east, central and southern zones of the country. These commissions serve as the coordination platform for law and justice in the most important municipalities of the country. Through them the JJS is able to coordinate its operations.

*Improvement in approaches to dealing with victims of sexual violence:* The Attorney General's Office was assisted to set up and manage a new Gesell Camera system in the municipality of Puerto Cortes. This ensured that cases of rape, physical and sexual abuse and other crimes against girls and women are dealt with properly, without the risk of re-victimisation. The new system is recognised by the legal system as a way of obtaining advance evidence and has meant that the justice system and civil society in that part of the country have a more effective mechanism for dealing with violence against children, especially girls.

*Agreement on a plan for continuing education on judicial protection of children's rights:* With technical support from UNICEF, training schools for the justice system and the Attorney General's Office, a plan for joint training of justice staff was developed, to be carried out in 2016. The main objective is to encourage more specialisation in juvenile justice and the protection of children's rights among existing staff, based on the many changes that have taken place in the justice system since the introduction of the original Code on Children in Honduras almost 20 years ago.

**OUTPUT 3** The relevant institutions of the Child Protection System have developed their capacities for an integrated approach (in terms of planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) to putting into operation the legislation and policy framework related to children.

#### **Analytical Statement of Progress:**

*The Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family has greater capacity to ensure special protection for vulnerable children and adolescents.* DINAF was created in 2014 as the entity responsible for governing and coordinating policies for the integrated protection of children. During 2015, with UNICEF support, it developed organisational profiles for its five basic areas of competency: juvenile justice, violation of rights, public policies, migration and adoptions. A training plan for training of technical teams in each of these areas was also developed.

UNICEF collaborated with DINAF on the elaboration, validation and dissemination of the "Guide for Dealing with Cases of Violation of Children's Rights" and the "Guide for the Organisation of Local Non-Detention Programmes for Adolescent Offenders". The guides aim to establish minimum standards for programmes of direct assistance for children and will be used as the basis for the roll-out of training for justice officials, municipal-level technical staff and NGOs dealing with vulnerable children and adolescents and young offenders.

To provide support for municipal governments, DINAF, through its six regional offices, established Child Protection Councils in 47 municipalities. The Councils include public institutions, private companies, CSOs and community organisations, and can take coordinated action for local-level solutions for special protection of children.

*Evidence was generated on good practices in the promotion of human rights.* In the context of implementation of the policy and national action plan on human rights, UNICEF supported a baseline study for measuring the levels of implementation of the policy and the plan by various public entities. Documentation of the pilot experience in integrated support for dealing with social conflict, implemented in the Bajo Aguan area, was also undertaken. The purpose was to disseminate and encourage replication of this experience in conflict prevention and integrated approaches in situations where human rights are not respected.

*Strengthening the capacity of children's defence officials:* Officials constituting the Children's Defence Boards, set up in 177 municipalities, received training and technical support from CONADEH and UNICEF to enable them identify and manage cases of violations and breaches of children's rights in their communities.

The functioning of the system for reporting rights violations, "Siquejas Web", which operates in CONADEH's 19 departmental-level delegations, was reviewed with the help of UNICEF. As a result, its area of coverage increased and both the efficiency of registration of reported cases of violations of children's at the Department level and the follow-up process at the central level were both improved. In 2015 11,189 cases were reported, of which 8,199 were followed-up by CONADEH.

**OUTCOME 3** Children and adolescents in six priority departments are able to start school at the right time and successfully complete basic education

#### **Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The national net enrolment rate in pre-basic education increased from 57 per cent in 2014 to 66 per cent in 2015, resulting from improvements in the education system on the supply side as well as increased demand generated by a strong communications and mobilisation strategy. However in the five departments designated as priority in the Country Programme (Copán, Intibucá, Lempira, Santa Bárbara and Ocotepeque) the increase was more modest, with enrolment rising from 52.8 per cent to 58.2 per cent (from 47,163 children enrolled in 2014 to 52,822 in 2015). Although in these Departments issues of physical access and financial limitations of families persist as barriers to enrolment, this alone was not enough to explain the modest increase in enrolment. It is clear that additional efforts are needed to sensitise and motivate families about the importance of pre-basic education and the timely enrolment of children. Nationally, some still 34,000 five-year olds remained outside the system.

Through the communication strategy for development of inclusive and quality education the capacities of parents in municipal and community participation structures – the Municipal Councils for Educational Development (COMDEs) and School Development Councils (CEDs) – continued to be strengthened. On the basis of local surveys identifying school-age children, house-to-house visits were carried out by community members and information materials distributed, complemented by a mass media campaign through radio and television.

UNICEF continued its advocacy efforts with Government and international cooperation for increased investment in pre-basic education. This helped to secure an allocation of US\$12 million in the national budget for 2016. The Round Table on External Cooperation in Education

– MERECE – advocated with the local "G-16" donor and aid groups to support implementation of the plan for universalising pre-basic education, resulting in important financial commitments including by the Organization of Ibero-American States and the International Development Bank, among others. The German Development Bank, KfW, also reassigned US\$16,654,600 for school infrastructure support in La Mosquitia region, starting in 2016.

Nationally, the net enrolment rate in basic education as a whole remained unchanged in 2015 at 89.9 per cent, although in the five priority departments there was an increase: from 77.8 to 82.2 per cent. Some 170,000 children were estimated to not be enrolled in the first and second cycles of basic education nationwide. On the qualitative side, according to the National Report on Academic Performance in Language and Mathematics, over the period 2010-2014 average performance scores of 6<sup>th</sup> Grade pupils rose from 37 per cent to 57 per cent in mathematics and from 60 per cent to 74 per cent in language.

The total number of pupils dropping out of school in 2015 fell to 34,786 from 61,766 in 2014. Of the total number of children who did not continue schooling, 83.6 per cent were registered as having dropped out, while external migration accounted for almost 13 per cent, a significant figure reflecting Honduras' continuing problem of child migration.

Net enrolment in the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of basic education (7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Grades) rose from 38 per cent in 2014 to 42 per cent in 2015. Even with this improvement, more than 182,000 adolescents between the ages of 12 and 14 were not in school, whilst some 236,000 adolescents within the education system were considered to be at risk of dropping out primarily, due to being over-age for grade.

Within the MERECE group, UNICEF led the universalisation of pre-basic education interest group. At the same time UNICEF worked in alliance with other external cooperation partners involved in various education-sector interest groups covering issues such as: decentralisation; universalisation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of education; and teacher training and support for information, accreditation and evaluation systems. Among the key results were: improved coordination and harmonisation of cooperation agendas; coordinated action for advocacy for greater investment in education, especially for the plan for universalisation of pre-basic education; and coordinated support for the Ministry of Education in the preparation of the Institutional Plan for Education 2014-2018.

The main challenges facing the education system are: (i) ensuring age-appropriate enrolment in pre-basic basic education and the first grade of primary, (ii) removal of the barriers that hinder the inclusion of adolescents in the system, (iii) improving further the quality of learning in basic education. To respond effectively to these challenges the process of decentralisation of management will have to be speeded up and local level capacity strengthened, together with further improvements in school infrastructure and the introduction of more flexible and attractive teaching-learning modalities.

**OUTPUT 1** The Ministry of Education has put in place the policies, norms, budgets and management models required for an inclusive quality education, with an emphasis on the reduction of equity gaps and disparities and prevention of violence.

### **Analytical Statement of Progress:**

*Formulation of the Institutional Plan for Education:* In coordination with GIZ and IDB, UNICEF worked with SEDUC to help develop a strategic institutional plan for education and the

indicators required for its monitoring and evaluation. The plan will govern the development of the sector until 2018, and includes the commitment to universalise pre-basic education.

*International Symposium on Universalisation of Pre-basic Education in Honduras:* This was a landmark event in the country's educational development. To analyse the challenges in implementing the plan for universal pre-basic education, the symposium brought together international cooperation partners, NGOs, the private sector, national education authorities, municipal leaders, teachers and other civil society representatives. Experts from Cuba and Colombia provided technical support for the event, which was also supported by the Organisation of Ibero-American States and the IDB. The Symposium was instrumental in mobilising actual resources for implementation of the plan.

A normative framework was developed for implementation of the National Plan for Universalisation of Pre-Basic Education: UNICEF worked with SEDUC in developing capacity and instruments for implementing the plan. Curriculum materials were prepared for two of the three modalities of pre-basic education: Pre-basic Education Centres (CEPREB) and Education at Home (EDUCAS). Materials for the third modality, Community Centres for Pre-basic Education (CCPREB), were developed by a local NGO. Modules for training of trainers were also prepared. Trainers will be responsible for training teachers and volunteers for all three modalities. Training modules will be available on-line through the Ministry's information platform.

*Increase in Government investment in pre-basic education:* The Government allocated US\$12 million in the national budget for 2016 for pre-basic education, with priority being given to the poorest Departments. However, the increase in investment in basic and middle level education for 2015 was not significant. Achieving and sustaining larger investments for inclusive and quality education in the country remains a challenge.

*Mapping of best practices and organisations working on violence prevention in schools was carried out, providing a basis for developing a national strategy.* Children have been increasingly affected by violence in schools, especially in the northern and central parts of the country that are most affected by organised crime related to the drug trade. UNICEF coordinated with the International Education and Development Centre of Colombia to provide technical assistance to SEDUC to develop a strategy for making schools safe and free of violence. An analysis was carried out of best practices in violence prevention in Honduran schools, based on documentary evidence and field visits. The strategy will be implemented through partnerships with relevant international cooperation partners, such as USAID, and NGOs.

**OUTPUT 2** The system of education in six departments has acquired the capacities required for decentralized and participatory management as well as the necessary pedagogical capacity.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

*The capacity of the education system to implement universal pre-basic education was strengthened.* Significant progress was made in building capacity for improving educational management, teaching/learning practices and community and classroom organisation, all key elements for implementing the National Plan for Universalisation of Pre-basic Education. Some 178 education staff from the technical teams in seven Departments were trained to follow up on and provide technical support for implementation of the plan.

*Pedagogical skills for implementing the "Everyone Can Learn" approach were strengthened.* This teaching/learning strategy was adopted to reduce levels of school failure due to over-age

enrolment, repetition and drop-out. The strategy continued to be implemented in 181 schools in 18 municipalities of five western Departments. In 2015, an additional 301 teachers were trained to implement the approach in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades, adding to the 181 trained in 2014.

The "Everyone Can Learn" strategy was harmonised with the national basic curriculum to adapt it to the socio-cultural context of Honduras. Sequenced teaching-learning materials were developed and validated in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade classes in 36 schools, with the involvement of central-level SEDUC officials and teacher trainers in each municipality. As of 2016 the approach is due to expand to cover more municipalities in the five priority Departments.

*MoRES Level 3 was applied in five Departments to strengthen the equity approach.* In order to expand the application of MoRES at Level 3, five directors and 30 technical Departmental-level education system staff, together with 10 national-level technical personnel were given training on its use and application. During the training, indicators were developed and a roadmap drawn up for implementation in municipalities in the five priority Departments. The next step will be to draw up a baseline so that the main barriers and bottlenecks at local level can be determined.

**OUTPUT 3** Families and communities are fully aware of the importance of children starting school at the appropriate time/age, staying on and completing schooling, and participating in the management of schools

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Key achievements and results obtained during the year were:

*Some 10,800 families sensitised on the importance of timely enrolment in pre-basic education:* The C4D strategy for quality and inclusive education was implemented in 18 municipalities and 181 focus schools. Fifteen local and regional radio stations and three television channels broadcast messages promoting behaviour change among parents, touching on social and cultural practices that prevent children from enrolling in school. Some 10,800 families in the focus municipalities were reached, as well as larger numbers in other municipalities and Departments, as some media used had much wider coverage. Information on the appropriate age for entering the pre-basic level and Grade 1 (5 and 6 respectively) was provided, emphasising the importance of children staying in the system. Capacity building for community support groups (COMDEs and CEDs) was also carried out, engaging them to provide more effective support for local school management.

*Community mobilisation for actively seeking out-of-school children:* In February, the beginning of the school year, 18 municipal directors of education, 18 COMDEs and 181 CEDs (including 181 school heads and 543 teachers) were involved in a mobilisation effort to actively seek out children who had not enrolled in school. Through home visits, and with the support of local and municipal authorities, 100 per cent age-appropriate enrolment of girls and boys in pre-basic and Grade 1 was achieved in the majority of the 181 focus schools.

Communication materials to strengthen the skills and knowledge of community and municipal groups were developed, including flip-charts for interacting with parents and a manual on the C4D strategy – part of a tool kit provided to all COMDEs nationally. Materials were also prepared for the 2016 school year enrolment campaign, including posters, leaflets and radio spots. These will be distributed in communities by members of CEDs, parents and volunteers during the next enrolment period in January 2016, accompanied by media support.

*Alliances were strengthened with international cooperation partners for scaling-up the*



*communication and mobilisation strategy.* The results achieved through the communications strategy were discussed at the International Symposium on Universalisation of Pre-basic Education. As a result, agreements were reached with the FORTA project (supported by Canada) and APRODE (a GIZ-supported initiative) to expand the strategy to more municipalities in 2016. The Ministry of Education has taken the C4D strategy on board as a key tool for obtaining community participation in school management.

**OUTCOME 4** The social policy framework for children and adolescents incorporates an equity focus and is evidence-based

### **Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF Honduras continued to work on generating evidence for integrating the equity approach into social policies on children and adolescents. The process of reflection with the Government to incorporate such evidence into current policies is still being built. One window of opportunity is the effort the country is making to adopt the agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals. The programme's key achievements and results are outlined below.

*More data on children became available for government decision-makers.* UNICEF worked with INE, responsible for managing the national system of statistics, to help strengthen its capacity for coordination, as well as collection, refinement and dissemination of statistics and data on social indicators. With UNICEF's assistance INE now has the capacity, tools and trained staff to manage public and user-friendly internet platforms based on DevInfo for publishing data related to children and adolescents. In collaboration with WHO/PAHO, the Inter-Institutional Committee on Vital Statistics, under the coordination of INE, was able to publish a "Vital Statistics" report after a gap of four years during which such vital up-to-date information – essential for making demographic projections to orient strategic planning by the State – was simply not available. In this field there is a need for consolidating and standardising existing institutional registration systems and ensuring their harmonisation, so that comprehensive and pertinent data can be easily generated.

*Strengthening existing systems for social sector monitoring and evaluation.* Tools and guidelines were developed that allow technical staff of the Ministry for Development and Social Inclusion (SEDIS), which is responsible for overseeing the country's social policy, to make use of information platforms for monitoring social policies. To advance in this area it will be necessary to strengthen the planning and governance processes of the Social Sector Cabinet and also to support coordination mechanisms amongst the various institutions in the sector. With SEDIS, UNICEF also helped generate evidence for strengthening the social protection system for children. This included the analysis of vulnerabilities among children and adolescents, an analysis of the institutional support available for social protection and an analysis of the possibilities for financing social protection for children.

*Multi-dimensional analysis of child poverty.* There was progress in identifying disparities in the situation of children and adolescents, and their determinants, to improve targeting of social programmes. In 2015 a multidimensional analysis of child poverty was carried out, which helped to determine the number of most-excluded children (characterised by the accumulation of multiple deprivations) and the distribution of deprivation by groups and locations. The analysis is the key tool for ongoing work with the technical committee set up to establish a national index of child poverty.

*Institutionalising the analysis of spending/ investment in children.* UNICEF advocated with various key State institutions (such as SEDIS, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry for

General Government Coordination) on the importance of monitoring investment in children in order to develop clear public policy objectives for this segment of the population. An Inter-institutional committee was created in 2015, jointly led by SEDIS and DINAF. The committee will be formalised in early 2016 through an agreement signed by the highest authorities of the various institutions involved, including UNICEF-Honduras. The committee has already adopted a methodology for measuring investment in children and developed capacity for preparing monitoring reports. A vision for work on public financing for children (PF4C) was also agreed, with the aims of evaluating, among other things, the quality of public investment, public policy costing and strengthening planning for results-based budgeting.

*Creating a basis for building a local system for comprehensive child protection, by strengthening the coordination capacity among local municipal governments. Partnerships with academia and the Association of Municipalities of Honduras were initiated to work on developing capacity for integrating the child rights approach into municipal management. This will help to give UNICEF's cooperation with municipalities a stronger results-based focus.*

**OUTPUT 1** The Government is generating evidence and is managing knowledge that adequately inform and orient policies and programmes for children and adolescents

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

A number of results were achieved during the year in terms of evidence generation and knowledge management for policies on children.

*The National Institute for Statistics was able to enhance its capacity for using DevInfo to facilitate user-friendly dissemination of up-to-date statistical information in the social field. Until recently Honduras' 'System of Social Indicators on Children and Adolescents' (SISNAM) was the only DevInfo based system in the country. Administered by INE, it was housed in remote global DevInfo servers in India, with all the disadvantages that this entailed. In 2015, with UNICEF support, INE was able to obtain an exclusive server in Honduras for storing SISNAM and any other future DevInfo applications. UNICEF-Argentina provided technical assistance for installing the applications on the server and setting up an Intranet to facilitate database validation. Support was also provided for creating a DevInfo application for disseminating relevant information and data from national household surveys, which had only been published as digital documents until now.*

*The Inter-Institutional Committee on Vital Statistics, led by INE, was able to publish an up-to-date "Vital Statistics Report" for the first time in four years. UNICEF and WHO/PAHO provided technical support for consolidating a vital statistics system in Honduras. As a result, a consolidated report on the country's vital statistics was produced, which for the first time included formal data on deaths. Using PAHO virtual platforms, technical staff from various institutions were trained in methods for determining cause of death, until now a major weakness in the vital registration system.*

*New evidence was generated on child poverty to orient public policy dialogue in the country. UNICEF led the process for developing a study on child poverty in Honduras, the findings of which provide answers to key questions: Who are the most excluded children in the country? Where are they? How many of them are there? Moreover, the study proposed methodological alternatives for measuring child poverty through a multi-dimensional lens based on the Demographic and Health Survey and the Household Survey. These have formed the basis for technical discussions with the committee established by Government to define a methodology and mechanisms for developing an official "Index of Multi-dimensional Poverty". This study,*

along with the study on social vulnerability of children, may constitute evidence for re-orienting the country's social protection policies.

**OUTPUT 2** The Government has sufficient capacity to be able to assign budgetary allocations based on equity, and analyse and monitor the efficiency of public expenditure on children and adolescents

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

*Institutionalisation of the measurement of social investment in children:* An inter-institutional committee was formed, charged with formalising institutional arrangements for the measurement of social investment in children. The committee is co-led by DINAF and SEDIS, with the participation of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry for General Government Coordination and other strategic actors (such as the National Congress and CSOs). The committee's work resulted in the following products during the year: (i) development of a methodological toolbox and acceptance of a methodology for measuring investment in children; (ii) compilation of information on more than 25 Government entities and its classification on the basis of an inter-institutional consensus; (iii) compilation and release of a periodic report on investment in children for 2014.

*Government authorities and the general public are able to access information on the public budget for the social sector and on investments in children.* With UNICEF's support, the inter-institutional committee published an info-graphic on public investment in children for 2014. During 2015 a consultative process involving various actors (academia, NGOs, CSOs et al.) was organised to improve the content and make it more easily understood. For the second year in a row the "Citizens' Budget", as it is known, was published in a user-friendly format as a set of leaflets.

UNICEF-Honduras contributed to these achievements by providing technical assistance through Country Office staff and international experts. UNICEF also supported Government participation in an international seminar held in Ecuador, where it shared the Honduran experience in PF4C and was able to exchange ideas with other countries. Honduras's presentation in Quito helped convince UNICEF's Social Inclusion and Policy Section in Programme Division to designate the Honduran experience as one of the outstanding examples of PF4C globally.

**OUTPUT 3** The relevant social protection institutions have adequate instruments to be able to put into operation an integrated system for social protection

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Key steps towards the establishment of an integrated social protection system were taken during 2015.

*Solid evidence was generated on social protection for children.* UNICEF-Honduras completed a third qualitative study on vulnerability among girls, boys and adolescents. The study explored the whole range of risks affecting children, the effects of risk exposure, the inter-relationship between different vulnerabilities and the response/coping strategies of families with or without state support. The evidence so far served as a basis for dialogue with Government authorities with a view to developing a programmatic roadmap towards the creation of a social protection system for children and adolescents.

*SEDIS increased its capacity for monitoring and evaluation of social programmes through the 'Single System for the Evaluation of Social Public Policy'.* The system (known as SUEPPS) was

initially developed several years ago but until recently it had not been possible to use it for evaluating programmes in the social sector. UNICEF provided technical assistance through national experts to develop guidance and methodological tools, and to systematise information on the implementation of key social programmes. Technical staff of SEDIS' General Directorate for Analysis and Evaluation of Social Policies received UNICEF support to enable them to use the tools for monitoring the implementation of the Social Sector Strategic Plan and Policy on Integrated Care in Early Childhood.

To move towards a clear vision for an integrated social protection system, it will be important to support a process aimed at strengthening planning and governance in the Social Sector Cabinet and defining coordination mechanisms among the institutions that comprise the sector. These challenges will be taken up in a work plan for next year with the Cabinet's Technical Secretariat.

**OUTPUT 4** Municipal governments in priority municipalities have developed and introduced an integrated social protection model that includes prevention of HIV and teenage pregnancy and the promotion of a culture of peace, responsible citizenship and life skills.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

*Conceptualisation of the Local System for Child Protection:* UNICEF promoted a series of discussions with Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision and Child Fund on the concept of a “Local System for Child Protection”, based on the experiences and good practices of these partners and UNICEF in Honduras and elsewhere. One key conclusion was the need to strengthen the coordination and leadership roles of municipal- level government. Thirty-five municipalities were selected to develop local models for the system.

UNICEF drew up an agreement with the Latin American Social Sciences Faculty and the National Autonomous University of Honduras to help develop management capacity with a child rights focus in the priority municipalities. In coordination with the Association of Municipalities of Honduras, the capacity of municipalities for applying a rights-based approach to management will be analysed, and a training programme with academic credits will be developed for authorities and technical staff.

**Document Center**

**Evaluation and Research**

Title	Sequence Number	Type of Report
“Situación del Sistema Especial de Justicia para la Niñez Infractora en Honduras” (The Situation of Juvenile Justice for Children in Conflict with the Law in Honduras)	2015/001	Study

**Other Publications**

Title
Documentation of Community Model on Violence Against Children Prevention
Documentation of Municipal Programme for Children, Adolescents and Youth
Return to Happiness Toolkit
First National Forum “Raising with Love”
Vital Statistics Report 2010 - 2012
Citizen Budget 2015

Series of newspaper booklets about Citizen Budget 2015
--

**Lessons Learned**

<b>Document Type/Category</b>	<b>Title</b>
Lesson Learned	Universalising Pre-basic Education