

Honduras

Executive Summary

During 2014 UNICEF Honduras dealt with a number of challenges and adjustments:

a) the installation of a new Government and new President in January; b) three emergencies during the second half of the year; c) the transition to the Regional HUB model for operations functions; d) the Mid-Term Review (MTR) exercise and the resulting adjustments in the programmatic, budgetary and human resources structures.

UNICEF Honduras continued its strong programmatic focus on up-stream policy work through advocacy, evidence-based policy dialogue, capacity building, new and strengthened partnerships, and communications-for-development (C4D) strategies, which all contributed to the following key results:

a) The President approved the national Plan for the Universalisation of Pre-Basic Education, implementation of which will start in January 2015. In partnership with the National Pedagogic University and Foundation for Support to Education (FEREMA), a technical and financial proposal was developed to increase access to pre-primary education from 69 percent to 100 per cent within the space of three years. Universal and timely enrolment of all children in the pre-primary level is seen as being vital for improvements in the quality of basic education and the reduction of exclusion, failure and dropout.

b) The Cabinet approved the creation of the National Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family, DINAF. UNICEF contributed to the development of technical proposals for creating the new entity with a different mandate from that of the previous Honduran Institute for Children and Family, so that it can more effectively guarantee the protection and fulfilment children's rights. The new entity's mandate is to implement an integrated system of protection so that all children are protected within the family, in schools and in the community, including those in highly vulnerable situations.

The MTR was an opportunity to discuss with the new Government the importance of ending violations of children's rights and the removal of bottlenecks to essential health, education and protection services for children and adolescents. As a result it was agreed to: a) Adjust the Outcomes and Outputs of the Programme to better reflect the country reality and the UNICEF Strategic Plan; b) Establish a strong focus on six priority Departments; c) Take a stronger inter-sectoral approach to early childhood development (ECD) and reduction of vulnerabilities among adolescents.

As regards improving efficiency and effectiveness at UNICEF Honduras, the most important challenges on which action was taken were:

a) Improving and strengthening cooperation in health and nutrition;
b) Generating better evidence for equity-focused programming and advocacy;
c) Improving in-house inter-sectoral work, and thus contributing to better coordination among institutions responsible for issues requiring multi-sectoral approaches, such as early childhood

development, social protection and prevention of violence.

Implementation of the Programme work-plan suffered some delays during the year due to:

a) Negotiations that had to be carried out with the new Government authorities and subsequent adjustments, which meant that in some areas implementation did not start until the middle of the year.

b) The three emergencies (the crisis of returning child migrants, drought and floods) that hit the country in the second half of the year and kept many staff occupied for up to 40-50 per cent of their working time throughout much of this period.

The emergency on unaccompanied migrant children as well as the impact of the two natural disasters are strongly linked to underlying poverty conditions, prevailing levels of violence and criminality, insufficient infrastructure, the need for stronger institutions and integrated social services, reinforcing the validity of current programme approaches and strategies.

The most important collaborative partnerships for 2014 were:

a) Continuation of the work the Office has prioritised since 2012 related to inclusive, quality education – during the year collaboration with various partners covered areas related to pedagogy, management of infrastructure, general sector management, planning, and monitoring and evaluation. An alliance with the Pedagogical University and Fundacion FEREMA was instrumental in developing a coherent and viable proposal for the universalisation of pre-basic education. This alliance is being widened to ensure that the plan is implemented, adequately financed and achieves the results expected over the next three years.

b) As part of the UNICEF Honduras strategy for working with the private sector, a partnership was established with Corporación Lady Lee, one of the country's largest business consortiums. The consortium has made a commitment to using a human rights-based approach to strengthen the capacity of duty-bearers to protect children, through C4D mechanisms, that will function throughout its commercial infrastructure (including seven shopping malls) and its social network of over 500,000 subscribers/followers.

Humanitarian Assistance

1. Returnee Migrant Children

For many years Honduras has been a major source of illegal migrants to the USA, usually via Mexico. The normal trickle of illegal migrants apprehended in the USA or Mexico and returned to Honduras threatened to turn into a torrent by the middle of 2014, caused primarily by a dramatic increase in the number of young children trying to reach the USA since the beginning of the year, the result of rumours of possible amnesties for illegal migrants and that children under the age of 14 would not be returned if apprehended by border or immigration authorities. This not only created headlines and something of a political crisis in the region on the issue of migration but resulted in a significant humanitarian crisis as hundreds, especially children, were suddenly being repatriated.

US Customs and Border Protection Services estimated that 17,975 unaccompanied Honduran migrant children had been apprehended on the southern border of the United States by the end of August 2014. A November report from the National Social Information Centre (CENISS) indicated that 1,205 children were repatriated from the USA and 7,028 from Mexico during 2014.

Strengthened capacities for a coordinated response: The Honduran Government, concerned by a looming humanitarian crisis, declared an emergency. UNICEF was requested by the Resident Coordinator to coordinate the response through a Protection Cluster, which was officially activated on 8 August, and included IOM, UNHCR, OHCHR, PAHO, WFP, OCHA, ICRC and NGOs. The Cluster developed a strategy to support Government efforts to deal with the reception and family-community reintegration of families and unaccompanied children returning to the country. Integrated actions and strong coordination with UN organisations and NGOs were fostered to better prepare and respond to the situation, based on the strengths of each agency. There was active coordination with IOM and UNHCR for updating, training and applying migration protocols, along with adequate provision of shelter and infrastructure in accordance with standards for guaranteeing child-friendly responses.

UNICEF Honduras provided technical support for the design of an information system to link up different institutions under the coordination of the CENISS (the main information system of the Government). As a result, general consensus was reached on: the instrument to be used, information flow and the design of a programme to capture data, and a pilot phase was implemented (See also Section of Innovations).

Child-friendly spaces for returnee children: UNICEF Honduras supported the National Directorate for Children, Youth and the Family, the Government institution that coordinates child-related policies, to transform the conditions at the El Eden reception centre set up to receive returnee children and families. UNICEF designed the attention procedures and guidelines for the reception stage, trained staff assigned to the Eden Centre and established coordination with UNCHR and IOM to improve infrastructure.

Emotional recovery of returned migrant children. The "Return to Happiness" toolkit was adapted to apply the methodology in the context of the crisis. UNICEF trained more than 300 volunteers from the Municipal Programmes for Children and Adolescents to implement these activities in communities. More than 3,000 children from "push communities", were reached by the volunteers in one month and will be followed up through municipal programmes.

Communication strategy. At the request of Ministry of Communication, UNICEF developed a rights-based communication strategy on migrant children for implementation at the local level through the communication networks of the Municipal Programmes for Children and Adolescents. The communication materials were developed in collaboration with the Humanitarian Network and validated with returned migrant families.

2. Drought Emergency

In July 2014 the Government declared a drought emergency in the south-west of the country cause by the El Niño phenomenon, which had prolonged the dry season and caused loss of crops leading to a situation of food insecurity. Honduras was the second most-affected country in Central America, with 120,000 affected families in 132 municipalities.

In close collaboration with WFP and the Ministry of Health, UNICEF carried out an assessment of the impact of food shortages on the nutritional status of under-fives in affected municipalities. According to this, the number of children with acute malnutrition had increased by 3.4 per cent (5.6 per cent among girls). Nationally the increase amounted to 1.4 per cent. Using CERF funds, UNICEF started to provide emergency assistance to 7,300 vulnerable people (pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children under five) for prevention of acute and severe malnutrition, nutritional surveillance and water and sanitation.

Equity Case Study

Honduras: Moving towards inclusive quality education

The Analysis of the Situation of Children in Honduras prepared by UNICEF in 2010 highlighted a long-term crisis of governance within the education sector that had been preventing progress towards the fulfilment of children's right to a quality education. Despite high coverage rates of around 90 per cent at the primary level, differences between teachers' unions and the Government led to frequent strikes and stoppages and reduced the number of effective learning days required by law (200) to as low as 65 per cent. As a result, UNICEF decided to focus its cooperation in Education on two areas: a) the approval and implementation of a new Law on Education reflecting a rights-based, equity and inclusive approach; and b) restoring good governance and management in the Ministry of Education (SEDUC) as a basis for effective implementation of the new law and thus improving the functioning of the system.

The new Law on Education was approved in early 2012. At the request of the National Congress and the Government, UNICEF provided technical support for the formulation process (evidence-generation, a consultant supporting the technical commission drafting the law, advocacy and policy dialogue in the Congress). A number of elements designed to strengthen the rights-based and equity approach were incorporated into the Law, including:

- All levels from Pre-basic to Middle-school level (10 grades) were made compulsory; previously only the primary cycle was deemed compulsory.
- The languages and cosmic vision of the indigenous and Afro-Honduran groups were to be preserved and strengthened and different modes of bilingual inter-cultural education would be introduced.
- The right and duty of the community to be involved actively in educational management and help ensure that schools function was established.
- The Government made a commitment to establish stipends/scholarships, conditional monetary transfers and study help schemes for socio-economically vulnerable students.

SEDUC recognised the need for a deeper analysis of the causes of exclusion (bottleneck analysis) to be able to refine its policies and programmes within the framework of the new Law. The study on "Educational Inclusion and Exclusion" carried out with UNICEF support and published at the end of 2011, revealed the main manifestations of exclusion in the education system to be: (a) inequities in initial access to schools; (b) high rates of failure in the first years of basic education (Grades 1 and 2) and the start of the third cycle (Grades 7 and 8); and (c) early drop-out from the age of 12.

The study helped identify 46 municipalities with the highest rates of exclusion in accordance with different schooling profiles. The key impediments to greater equity were found to be: (a) barriers in the enabling environment, such as weaknesses in planning by results, inequitable budgetary allocations, poor information systems, lack of pedagogic alternatives that appeal to adolescents, pedagogical models and teaching methods that undermine learning and wrongly consider repetition as a strategy for dealing with children who have learning difficulties; (b) low service capacity (around 75 percent of classrooms were found to be in poor condition, lacking adequate furniture and learning materials), not enough teachers and infrastructure at pre-basic and middle levels, lack of training for teachers in competency-based teaching; and (c) weak demand for services because of lack of awareness about age-appropriate enrolment and the perception that education brings few benefits. These findings were used as the basis for designing specific interventions and strategies for removing these barriers and bottlenecks.

The pro-equity results achieved so far through SEDUC-UNICEF cooperation were:

- Approval of the Fundamental Law on Education
- Launching of a plan for the universalisation of the pre-basic (pre-primary) level, which aims to include some 65,000 five-year-olds who were not in school.
- Harmonisation and integration of SEDUC's central information systems (enrolment, budget, manpower, infrastructure and academic achievement) and their consolidation into information management models with the capacity to provide information at both national and sub-national levels. This has been of fundamental importance and has facilitated the processing of educational indicators and the identification of departments or municipalities with the worst situation in terms of coverage, infrastructure and performance, thus pin-pointing the most excluded. In addition, strengthening capacity for budgetary analysis led to savings of more than US\$20 million in 2013 and the establishment of budgetary allocations in 2014 specifically for reducing inequity.
- Setting-up of a pilot system for monitoring results for equity (MoRES) in 18 municipalities in the western part of the country, focussing on monitoring school repetition, community participation in school management and awareness about age-appropriate enrolment. In 2014 the base-line was set and in 2015 this will help determine objectively to what extent barriers to inclusion have been overcome.
- Implementation of the pedagogical strategy "Everyone Can Learn", which aims to ensure that all children are included in the first cycle of basic education in the 181 schools in 18 municipalities with majority indigenous populations. During 2014, some 9,050 children were reached through this strategy.
- For two consecutive years, the system has been able to attain the annual 200 days of class target, after 14 years of frequent closures and interruptions to the school year. This has begun to impact positively on the country's performance within the region in terms of academic achievement in mathematics and language as demonstrated by the Academic Performance National Report published in 2014, which shows a rise in the average performance of language and mathematics between 2010 and 2013 (60 to 70 per cent and 37 to 57 per cent, respectively)
- Development of a communications strategy geared to informing families and communities about age-appropriate entry for pre-basic and basic education, and reducing drop-out rates in the 18 municipalities with the highest levels of educational exclusion.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BOS: Business Operations Strategy
C4D: Communication for Development
CCCs: Core Commitments for Children (in Emergencies)
CERF: Central Emergency Response Fund
CENISS: National Centre of Social Information
CHF: Codan High Frequency
CMT: Country Management Team
COMVIDA: Communication and Life Initiative
CPAP: Country Programme Action Plan
CPD: Country Programme Document
CRB: Central Review Body
CRC: Convention on the Rights of the Child
DaO: Delivering as One
DINAF: National Directorate for Children, Youth and the Family
DCT: Direct cash transfers

DOCO: UN Development Operations Coordination Office
DR: Disaster recovery
ECD: Early childhood development
EPAS: Electronic performance appraisal
FEREMA: Private Foundation for Support to Education
GAVI: Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation
GIS : German Cooperation Agency
GSSC: Global Support Service Centre
HC: Humanitarian Coordinator
HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HQ: Headquarters
HRM: Human resources management
ICRC: International Committee of the Red Cross
ICT: Information and communication technology
ID: Identity Document
IDB: Inter-American Development Bank
IMEP: Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
IHNFA: Honduran Institute for Children and Family
IOM: International Organisation for Migration
JCC: Joint Consultative Committee
JP: Joint Programme
KAP: Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
KfW: German Bank for Reconstruction
LACRO: Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office
LTA: Long-term agreement
M&A: Management and accountability
M&E: Monitoring and evaluation
MERECE: Round Table for Education
MoRES: Monitoring of Results for Equity System
MTR: Mid-Term Review
NGO: Non-governmental organisation
OMT: Operations Management Team
OHCHR: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PAHO/WHO: Pan-American Health Organisation / World Health Organisation
PAIPI: National ECD Policy
PAS: Performance Evaluation Report
PBR: Programme Budget Review
PCA: Project Cooperation Agreement
PEP Kit: Post-exposure prophylaxis kit
PER: Performance Evaluation Review
PMIAJ - Municipal Programme for Children, Adolescents and Youth
QCPR: Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review
RC: Resident Coordinator
RCO: Resident Country Offices
RapidFTR: Mobile Application Family Tracing and Reunification
SEDIS: Ministry for Development and Social Inclusion
SEDUC: Ministry of Education
SEFIN: Ministry of Finance
SISNAM: System of Social Indicators on Children, Adolescents and Women
SITAN: Situation analysis
TOR: Terms of reference

UHF: Ultra-high frequency
UN: United Nations
UNAH: National Autonomous University of Honduras
UNCT: United Nations Country Team
UNDAF: United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG: United Nations Development Group
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS: United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNOCHA: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund
USA: United States of America
VHF: Very-high frequency
WASH: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP: World Food Programme

Capacity Development

At the beginning of 2014 the Government undertook a restructuring of public institutions, regrouping ministries and fusing other institutions. UNICEF made strengthening of institutional capacities at national and local level a priority. Through alliances with academic institutions and continuous technical support for key staff it was possible to develop the technical and managerial capacities for evidence-based public policy management and make advances in the development of a child rights protection system. The returnee child migrant crisis created another set of urgent capacity building needs.

Key results:

- a) Almost 1,900 justice operatives (judges, public defenders, prosecutors and police) were trained in the recent legal reforms relating to children and the family, particularly on the Special System of Justice for Adolescents in Conflict with the Law, making it possible for the new system to get started. Some 300 graduates of the National Police Academy received training on child rights, becoming specialised in maintaining security around juvenile detention centres.
- b) Municipal Programme for Children, Adolescents and Youth (MPCAY): through training and technical support UNICEF developed capacities in 37 municipalities for assisting the emotional recovery of returnee migrant children in the communities with the highest levels of migration. More than 300 adolescents from the Programme's volunteer networks received training in the "Return of Happiness" approach and reached 3,000 children in their communities. The communication skills of some 1,725 "young communicators" were also strengthened in relation to migrant children and violence. UNICEF also supported the training of 27 municipal coordinators in planning and management of municipal processes, imparting a diploma in Municipal Development through the National Autonomous University of Honduras.
- c) Protection of children in humanitarian crises: the crisis generated by the sudden return of many irregular migrant children – largely from Mexico and the USA – led to an urgent need for protection-related capacity. UNICEF provided training to a network of NGOs and UN organisations involved in the response, focusing on Core Commitments for Children and minimum standards for child protection. Forty MoE officials in Departments with the highest numbers of returnee children received training on Education in Emergencies (EiE).

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

The Government's political will and UNICEF's high level of credibility together constitute a favourable climate for upstream policy work. UNICEF Honduras has placed considerable emphasis on evidence-generation and knowledge management in relation to the equity agenda, evidence-based advocacy, analysis and follow-up on public policies on children and adolescents, as well as the provision of technical support for the conceptualisation and development of a national system for child protection. The most important outcomes of these efforts to date include:

- Advocacy for the creation of the Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family, responsible for management and oversight of the child protection system. After repeated accusations of corruption and abuse of children under the direct responsibility of the Honduran Institute for Children and Family (IHNFA) and the inefficacy of its programmes, the Presidency ordered it to be intervened and audited in order to assess the situation. The information that emerged from this process served as the basis for public discussions and policy dialogue that UNICEF undertook with decision-makers and other relevant actors. As a result, a new entity was created to oversee and coordinate the system for the integral protection of children in the country.
- Universalisation of pre-basic education: UNICEF Honduras supported the study on the Situation of Inclusion and Exclusion in Education. The study defined the scale of the problem and revealed the need for initiatives to remove the main bottlenecks and barriers to universal and sustainable education in the country. Based on the evidence provided by the study, the Pedagogic University, the Ministry of Education and UNICEF Honduras developed a National Plan for the Universalisation of Pre-basic Education. The political dialogue that UNICEF Honduras maintained with the President and the Minister of Education helped ensure approval of the Plan and its implementation, which was initiated recently. The report on the Study and the Plan were widely discussed at the meetings of the External Cooperation Round Table (MERECE), with a view to advocating for the harmonisation of international cooperation around an equity-based approach.

Partnerships

Establishing partnerships and alliances played a crucial role in the Country Programme during 2014, especially to ensure approval of the strategic plan for universalisation of the first compulsory grade of the pre-basic (pre-primary) cycle of education, and for it to be made a priority by the President. An agreement was signed with the National Pedagogic University Francisco Morasan for its technical and research teams to develop an implementation model, including principles, standards and curricular outlines. In addition, UNICEF worked with the private Foundation for Support to Education, which has been working on alternative models of pre-basic education in the country and contributed technical work on proposed strategies and cost estimates for such modalities in the Plan.

A group of interested partners was also created within the Round Table for External Cooperation in Education, composed of the German Cooperation Agency (GIS), IDB, and the World Bank, the Joint Fund (integrated cooperation of France, Spain, Canada and KfW) and UNICEF, to validate the plan and its financial viability by identifying possible sources of international cooperation. Of the almost US\$83 million estimated total cost of universalising pre-basic, by the end of 2014 committed financing included: a contribution of US\$5 million from the German KfW for investment in infrastructure, US\$18 million arising from a debt conversion agreement with Spain, and \$21 million that SEDUC estimated it would allocate from budget savings.

Another important partnership established was an agreement signed in September 2014 with Corporación Lady Lee, one of the country's largest private business consortiums. The consortium has interest in several companies, a chain of seven shopping malls, as well as more than 800,000 followers on its social media sites. The aim of the partnership is to strengthen the capacity of duty-bearers for children's and adolescents rights through the C4D strategy on migration and violence issues. Materials were prepared for the training of shopping mall personal and the consortium volunteer programme, and will be replicated to the public using the Corporation's infrastructure in malls and social networks during 2015.

External Communication and Public Advocacy

UNICEF Honduras was chosen to pilot the new Global Communication Strategy. Adapting it to Honduras, the Communications and Programme Teams together analysed the determinants of children's and adolescents' exclusion and vulnerability, particularly in terms of social norms and families' socio-cultural practices. The strategy was applied to various issues, including child migration of children, with the following results:

Evidence: Patterns of illegal migration and trafficking were examined, as were profiles of migrant children and families. Municipalities with the highest levels of migration/emigration ("push factors") were identified.

Stratified audience research and media analysis: In collaboration with two private communications companies, audience segmentation and media analysis studies were carried out. This identified primary audiences (political authorities, decision-makers, parents and disadvantaged adolescents) and the best channels/media and times for reaching them.

Articulate policy-programme response to communication: Cooperation in the "push" municipalities was strengthened to create synergies between the programme response to the humanitarian crisis (in education, protection and community mobilisation) and the increased communications designed to inform people about the risks and dangers of illegal migration. Messages to promote a safe/supportive family environment for returnee children were designed.

Reach and engage: UNICEF Honduras engaged in advocacy and policy dialogue with decision-makers and authorities. Printed materials, radio and TV spots were produced through which some 25,000 families in priority communities were reached, while social networks (Twitter/Facebook) were the primary means of reaching out to the "Millenials", including the middle class (to sensitise them to the problem).

Alliances: An alliance was established with communications media at national and local levels for broadcasting messages in line with the strategy. The Municipal Programmes for Children, Adolescents and Youth played a key role in local communication and mobilisation, using socio-cultural animation, radio and local TV channels to spread messages. This alliance resulted in free media coverage worth the equivalent of around US\$170,000.

An agreement was signed with one of the country's largest business consortiums, which has around 800,000 members in its social networks, opening up the possibility of reaching these members on a regular basis to seek support for dealing with problems affecting children. (*See Humanitarian Action section).

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

Specialised Criminal Justice

Within the framework of the institutional reform of the system of special protection for children, the Government has initiated changes in four aspects of the system of specialised criminal justice: a) capacity development of law enforcement and justice system operatives; b) improving conditions in detention centres for adolescents deprived of liberty; c) reformulation of the re-education and social re-insertion model; d) introduction of non-custodial measures in collaboration with NGOs. In July 2014, in a coordinated effort between the UNICEF Offices in Honduras and Nicaragua, Honduran authorities became acquainted with the juvenile justice system in Nicaragua. The immediate result of this cooperation between the two UNICEF offices was the exchange of experiences between the law enforcement and justice operatives of the two countries. The monastic Order of Tertiary Capuchins, which has extensive experience working on re-education and re-insertion programmes for juvenile offenders in Nicaragua and Colombia, began to provide specialised technical support for the detention centres in Honduras and opened up the possibility of a long-term cooperation agreement with the Honduran authorities through UNICEF. The Government also authorised US\$2.2 million in funding for infrastructure and equipment improvements in the country's three detention centres for adolescents in conflict with the law.

Early Childhood Development

In 2013 the Government approved the National Policy on Early Childhood Development (PAIPI); implementation began in 2014. To develop a conceptual consensus on ECD, integrated care and inter-sectoral action, the Government organised the National Forum on ECD. With the support of UNICEF Honduras, and in close coordination with the respective UNICEF COs, technical cooperation links have been established with the Governments of Colombia and Cuba for ECD in Honduras. The Honduran Government found that Colombia's ECD programme "From Zero to Forever" contained important elements for the development of an integrated care approach and a good institutional management model. Likewise the experience of the Cuban "Educate your Child" initiative had important lessons for incorporating family and community-based strategies into an appropriate ECD service delivery model for Honduras.

Identification Promotion of Innovation

Development of an Integrated Information System on Child Migrants

The humanitarian crisis caused by the sudden influx of large numbers of returning child migrants in 2014 (See section on Humanitarian Action) demanded information to analyse and follow up on the flow of returnee children. Reliable and timely information was not available due to:

- Duplication of efforts - different institutions collecting same information with no coordination
- No system for registering, processing and analysing all information
- Critical information gaps on child protection issues relevant to migrants
- Lack of a system for monitoring family reunification and the situation of children returning to their communities.

UNICEF Honduras and its partners helped put in place an information system that could provide tools for a rapid response to the situation. Technical support was provided to the National Information Centre for the Social Sectors, enabling it to design and set up a system for real-time monitoring of returnee children. The system links together various institutions involved in repatriation and reception of returnee children and their re-incorporation into families and communities. National experts were hired to provide assistance in: a) preparation of a situation

analysis of returnee children in 2014 using existing data and complemented with a qualitative survey; and b) monitoring the reunification process and the re-incorporation of children into families and communities. These technical innovations have allowed unaccompanied returnee children to be properly reunited with families.

Monitoring of unaccompanied migrant children and family reunification is carried out by adapting the RapidFTR mobile application. Family and community re-incorporation will be monitored using the sentinel site/community methodology. This will also help to measure the effectiveness of Government policies aimed at reducing the "push factors" that forced so many children to migrate in the first place.

Although this is a good example of rapid/innovative application of technology, the most important innovation was to get various institutions, unused to working together, to coordinate their disparate information systems and agree on a common approach. The initiative could have an impact beyond migration and be applied to other social sectors where better coordination of information is required.

Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages

Integrated, Cross-Sectoral Approaches to Early Childhood Development

To implement the National Policy on Early Childhood Development, the Government formulated a national strategy emphasising strong inter-institutional linkages to implement programmes and multiple interventions in health, nutrition, water and sanitation, initial education, birth registration and protection from violence and abuse. With technical support from UNICEF, the First Lady, who has played an important advocacy role in this field, promoted working sessions with ministers of the social sector, strategic planning, finance and communication to reach a consensus on the conceptual and strategic approach for ECD.

An Inter-Sectoral Technical Commission was established at the national level for the planning, management, monitoring/evaluation of all ECD interventions, within the framework of an integrated approach. In 2015 the structure will be replicated in priority Departments where the programme is to be implemented. The integrated approach is vital for implementing ECD, which has traditionally been characterised by lack of coordination between sectors and even duplication of programmes. It has been a difficult process but Government has been determined to institute an integrated approach to create synergies and improve programme impact.

These efforts also required a more integrated approach to work within the UNICEF Office: inter-sectoral teams, norms and mechanisms for working across sectors have all been instituted. A matrix-based office structure has enabled staff and experts to work together in an agile and effective manner, "accompanying" the Government's efforts to move rapidly in the implementation of the ECD Policy. The ECD Team is composed of the: ECD and Education (to coordinate pre-basic education), Child Protection (dealing with birth registration) and WASH specialists. Also participating are specialists from Communication (strengthening C4D capacities), Social Policy (for budget analysis and social expenditure on ECD) and M&E (development of the National ECD Information Register and application of MoRES). Working this way was initially challenging but is seen as essential if support to the ECD policy is to show results. The same mechanism was set up to work on other social policy processes; for example, universalisation of pre-basic education.

Service Delivery

Delivering water and sanitation to indigenous communities in La Mosquitia

The indigenous Miskito population in the dispersed and isolated rural areas of La Mosquitia faces severe problems of exclusion and inequity in access to basic social services. Difficult terrain, limited Government presence, logistical difficulties, security issues due to narco-trafficking and organised crime make the area particularly vulnerable and challenging in terms of service delivery. Only 40 percent of the population has access to safe water, and 24 percent have sanitation facilities, well below national averages. In 2013 only 22.7 per cent of schools in the Department of Gracias a Dios had access to clean water and 16.7 per cent to sanitation, again well below national averages.

UNICEF Honduras has continued to support interventions for improving delivery of water and sanitation services and hygiene promotion in schools in Gracias a Dios as a key strategy for reaching these most excluded and vulnerable population groups. Using Thematic Funds and in collaboration with a local implementing partner – "Water for the People" – UNICEF provided seven schools with low-cost water supply installations, including rainwater catchment, improvement of wells, and supply of hand-pumps as well as elevated latrines, thus improving sanitary conditions for 1,083 schoolchildren (564 girls and 519 boys). The total investment amounted to US\$64,000 (US\$53 per child), considered to be highly cost-effective given the difficulties inherent in delivering these services in excluded communities.

The participation of children, families and communities through a process of reflection and preparation of plans of action was a key factor for success, encouraging their empowerment as rights-holders and highlighting their role as co-responsible partners. Community members contributed materials and labour for construction and installation work and ensured regular maintenance through community water committees. Demand has been generated from nearby communities that do not have such services or facilities.

Strategically, the aim is to achieve 100 per cent coverage of these interventions to demonstrate what is possible in such challenging environments, opening the way for a much stronger presence of programmes for children in these areas.

Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

Children and adolescents in Honduras develop in a complex context characterised by social exclusion and lack of an effective protective environment. High levels of general violence and violence against children continue to cause great concern among the population and for the Government. Yet a tendency to criminalise the population persists among many. Given this situation and in response to the country's fourth periodic report (2007), the CRC Committee recommended that Honduras should: a) Redouble efforts to guarantee the complete harmonisation of internal laws and regulations to define the system for the integral protection of children's rights; b) Complete the public sector reforms intended to strengthen the institution that guides, coordinates and manages policies on children; c) Ensure that adequate resources are available at national and local levels for implementing the plans and programmes designed to fulfil the articles of the Convention.

The Programme of Cooperation has supported the State in systematic efforts to ensure that CRC Recommendations are clearly and precisely taken into consideration in the approval of laws and the development of public policies, institutional and local plans. With technical assistance from UNICEF, the Government approved at the end of 2013 the comprehensive

reforms related to children and the family which harmonise national legislation with the CRC. In addition UNICEF supported the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights in the design of a social audit strategy for monitoring the National Policy and Plan of Action for Human Rights approved in 2013.

Support was also provided for developing the capacity of adolescent leaders in priority municipalities for analysing the situation of children's rights and doing social audits of municipal policies for children, empowering them also to exercise their right to participate and be heard. The MTR provided an opportunity to sharpen the equity focus by emphasising the identification of determinants of social exclusion among the most disadvantaged population groups. This allowed UNICEF and the Government to revise programme outcomes, outputs and cooperation strategies to specifically tackle bottlenecks. As a result, cooperation has been focussed more strongly on municipalities with the highest rates of child poverty.

Gender Mainstreaming and Equality

During 2014 gender-focused initiatives were mainly directed at generating evidence on violence against children, particularly sexual violence against girls and adolescents. This was felt to be a priority because of the lack of reliable evidence/data for policy dialogue and decision-making on these issues. Findings have shown that 39 per cent of legal cases where forensic evaluations of children are required relate to sexual violence, of which 89 per cent involved adolescent girls; the 12-18 age group accounted for almost 72 per cent of these cases. In 77 per cent of cases the aggressor was known to the victim. This initiative was carried out jointly with the Observatory on Violence of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), and involved two UNICEF Honduras staff members working on social policy and evidence-generation issues. The activity had a budget of approximately US\$30,000. Further work is being done to analyse the findings of this initiative and develop appropriate strategies and lines of action; in collaboration with UN Women, the analysis was shared within the UN system.

UNICEF also promoted legal reforms that allow the use of the Gesell camera system as valid evidence in legal processes as well as the development of tools and protocols for their use. This constitutes an important step in trying to reduce "re-victimisation" during legal proceedings, especially in cases of sexual violence which predominantly involve girls. Two UNICEF staff members working on protection issues were involved in this activity with a budgetary allocation of US\$19,500.

In 2014 the CMT reviewed and took action on the results of the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) gender study carried out among UNICEF staff in 2013, as well as the mapping exercise on gender mainstreaming in UNICEF country programming. The Representative launched a sensitisation strategy through individual interviews with staff members to ascertain staff views about the survey's findings and identify cases where there may have been inappropriate gender-related attitudes and practices. The CMT also decided that there should be a technical input for the MTR to ensure that gender mainstreaming is adequately reflected in the review and programmatic follow-up. The conclusions emerging from this will inform further work on gender mainstreaming during the remainder of the Country Programme.

Environmental Sustainability

Because of its geographic location and exposure to the climatic effects of both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, Honduras is hit by meteorological phenomena almost every year – hurricanes, tropical storms, floods, landslides and drought. Climate change, emergency preparedness and response are thus important issues for the Country Programme, as is environmental

sustainability.

During 2014 UNICEF Honduras was part of the multi-country regional programme for strengthening community resilience in the face of emergencies. Six municipalities in southern Departments of Valle and Choluteca and five municipalities in the western Department of Lempira were included in the programme. The main objective was to enable vulnerable families and communities to strengthen their capacity for response and recovery, so that they have the tools for managing risk when faced with emergencies. In addition, municipalities need to be better prepared and allocate sufficient funds to support prevention in vulnerable communities and carry out recovery with a mitigation and prevention focus that ensures the preservation of livelihoods of vulnerable families

These communities have developed emergency preparedness plans, have local Emergency Committees, vulnerability maps as well as capacity and resources. Beneficiaries number some 24,600 (11,800 children and 6,400 women). Almost 1,800 children in 30 schools participated in courses on school security and emergency simulation exercises, each school developing a School Emergency Plan, risk maps and evacuation routes.

Environmental sustainability is also a key concern in the WASH project in schools in Mesquite indigenous communities in Gracias a Dios Department (north-east), an area of difficult access affected by climate change. With limited groundwater sources, rainwater catchment is promoted as an alternative, low-cost solution as well as a way of controlling the over-exploitation of wells. This is combined with the improvement and protection of dug wells with sanitary seals and supplied with hand-pumps, which are cheap to install and easy to maintain. Raised latrines are also promoted to prevent groundwater contamination, as is proper waste disposal throughout the communities. In addition to providing infrastructure, hygiene promotion is carried out in schools and communities, incorporating risk assessment and the protection of water sources and the community environment.

Effective Leadership

During 2014 the CMT played a crucial role in determining priorities and decision-making related to the transition to operating under the Panama Hub, including changes in human resources structure. The incorporation of UNICEF Honduras into the Panama Hub in June 2014 implied some changes in the roles and functions of CO staff given that Operations staffing was reduced to two Assistant posts (Human Resources and Finance), whereas previously there had been five posts including one professional. Some of the functions of the Operations Officer were transferred to the Representative and the Programme Coordinator. Other functions which had been the responsibility of operations staff were assigned to Programme Assistants.

For joining the Hub, UNICEF Honduras developed a transition plan, all relevant functions and the new Table of Authorities were reviewed, and processes were readjusted in line with the Service Level Agreement signed with LACRO and the agreed procedures for migration to the Global Support Services Centre (GSSC).

During the first quarter of the year UNICEF Honduras was able to close the last observation remaining from the 2012 Internal Audit, related to the lack of funds and human resource capacity required to meet Country Programme objectives. Audit recommendations were also undertaken during the Mid-Term Review: programme components were reviewed and revised, budget ceilings were redistributed and the human resources structure adjusted accordingly. LACRO provided support for a training workshop on budget management and analysis of

management performance indicators.

UNICEF Honduras considers the support budget to be inadequate to cover operating costs and intends to carry out an in-depth review and develop options for a redistribution of budget allocations.

Some of the major items on the agenda of the CMT during 2014 for review, approval and follow-up were: a) approval of membership of various committees, panels and thematic groups (CRC, PSB, Training Committee, CRB, JCC) required for the proper functioning of the office; b) approval of the Annual Management Plan; c) review and follow-up on the KAP survey on Gender and Human Rights; d) updating the Table of Authorities; e) standard procedures for presentation of the Programme Cooperation agreement; f) tools for presentation of work plans and monitoring reports by programme partners; and g) the system for Quality Assurance of Surveys, Studies and Research. Performance management indicators were reviewed by the CMT every month with support from the Panama Hub Operations Manager.

Financial Resources Management

Among the most important steps and decisions taken by the CMT in 2014 were:

- a) Review of the ceiling for approval of consultancy services and institutional contracts, raising it to US\$40,000. As a result contractual processes have improved significantly in terms of time taken, whilst complying fully with established organisational parameters.
- b) Continuous review and revision of the Table of Authority resulting in the Office having a minimal number of VISION violations.
- c) With the Office's entry into the Panama Hub, the CMT continuously monitored the flow of travel authorisations and liquidations, contracts and purchase orders, to ensure that the established efficiency standards were being maintained. It must be said, however, that the remaining staff felt at times overloaded by the requirements of the new systems.

The CMT also reviewed procedures established in the Guidelines on Financial and Administrative Management in Emergencies to ensure they were being fully implemented in the context of the child migrant returnees' crisis. It recommended the delegation of authority to partners for purchases, especially of computer equipment in line with UNICEF's technical criteria.

UNICEF Honduras was able to close the last observation remaining from the 2012 Internal Audit. This was related to the lack of funds and human resource capacity required to meet Country Programme objectives. As a result of the Mid-Term Review, programme components were reviewed and revised, financial ceilings were readjusted as was the staffing structure. Management indicators were reviewed on a monthly basis by the CMT with support from the Panama Hub. In 2014, budget implementation reached 100 per cent, with spending reaching US\$3.8 million compared to US\$2.8 million in 2013. DCT balances older than nine months were reduced from 7.8 per cent of the total outstanding amount in June to just 0.6 per cent by the end of the year.

Fund-raising and Donor Relations

During the first half of the current programme cycle (2012-2016), the programme suffered a drastic reduction in availability of funds as a result of some of key donors withdrawing from or terminating their programmes of cooperation with Honduras.

This created a major challenge for the country and UNICEF given the Government's continuing need for aid, and the support needed for fulfilling children's rights in such a complex context. At the beginning of 2014 UNICEF Honduras updated its fundraising strategy to try and widen its donor base. At that time available resources (OR) amounted to 48.8 per cent of the total OR ceiling approved in the CPD. By the end of 2014 the situation had improved dramatically and 86.8 per cent of the total OR ceiling had been reached, thanks largely to new funding from Canada (US\$2,676,000) and the United Kingdom (US\$732,900) as well as allocations of Global Thematic Funds (US\$731,700). As of the end of the year, 75.6 per cent of OR funds raised had been implemented. This situation was reversed by implementation of the fundraising strategy, effectiveness and efficiency of evidence-based advocacy, which in turn brought more credibility, which contributed to strengthen the partnership with Canada and others.

UNICEF Honduras has followed standard procedures for the preparation and submission of donor reports, including time limits and clear accountabilities for each stage of the process. The Programme Coordinator and the Representative are responsible for ensuring the final quality of reports and that timelines agreed with donors are adhered to. During 2014 quality standards were maintained and all deadlines met. Five reports were submitted: to the US Fund for UNICEF and the Governments of Canada and Belgium.

Evaluation

UNICEF Honduras did not carry out any new formal evaluations during 2014. The 2013 evaluation of the Child-Friendly Schools Initiative was listed among the 65 best evaluations reviewed by the Global Evaluation Reports Oversight System in 2014. The IMEP was developed and submitted on time. Upon completion of the MTR of the Country Programme in June, the IMEP was reviewed and validated in light of guidelines and standard procedures for research and evaluation developed internally as a quality assurance tool. This was done to ensure that the IMEP included all studies and research activities required to fill key information gaps for orienting policy actions and measuring the impact of the main outcomes of the Country Programme, as foreseen in the revised work-plans for 2014.

Priority areas identified included: a qualitative research study on vulnerabilities for the development of an integrated social protection system; an analysis of the existing special system of juvenile justice in the country; a study on public investment in children (completed); an analysis of the systems for reporting and registering crimes against children; an analysis of violence against children (completed); and the development of base-line data for monitoring the Municipal Programmes for Children and Adolescents in terms of their impact on prevention of HIV infection, teen pregnancy, violence, migration and adolescent participation.

Most of these studies are still under implementation but where key aspects have been completed they have already helped the Office move ahead on programming. For example, the initial study on investment in children was used to impress upon Government authorities the importance of institutionalising a system for measuring such investments on an annual basis. This has led to work being done to conceptualise a model for developing such a system.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

The Interagency Organisation Management Team (OMT) established by the UNCT and consisting of all agencies' Administration/Operations focal points coordinates relevant administrative, financial and logistics aspects of the UN System's presence and activities. The OMT facilitates action on agreements and proposes analysis and implementation of services that could be shared, on the basis of criteria such as economy of scale – for example, joint LTAs

with travel agencies, supply of fuel for vehicles or printing services.

The UN House premises are shared by six system agencies and UNDSS. The UN House Committee composed of agencies' administrators meets every month to monitor and review the joint budget. The costs of electricity, communications, Internet, water supply, maintenance of equipment and installations, cleaning, rent and security costs are all shared by agencies on a proportional basis. This has brought economy of scale.

UNICEF Honduras' "savings" in 2014 amounted to US\$11,005, compared to expenses in 2013. The areas where the largest savings were made were related to electricity consumption, telephones and Internet, operating costs, salaries, rent and security.

Supply Management

The post of Supply Assistant was abolished as of 1 July 2014 as part of the restructuring exercise. The post's functions were redistributed between the posts of Finance Assistant and Human Resource Assistant, bringing additional workload that was compensated by overtime payment.

Supply procurement and issuance of service contracts increased significantly during the second half of the year as programme implementation by the new Government (that took office at the beginning of the year) and several newly created institutions gained momentum during this period. In addition the response to the child migrant emergency began in July and required additional procurement of emergency supplies and services. Operations staff and Programme assistants had to work exceptional hours to meet the demands of the emergency response.

In 2014 the supply component of the Country Programme represented only 9.3 per cent of the programme budget.

The involvement of the Panama Hub in the procurement process was minimal since most procurement actions were below US\$3,500, the minimum level at which the Hub comes into play. Emergency supplies were nationally procured, under the supervision and guidance of the Hub.

The CO also facilitated the purchase of immunisation supplies for the Ministry of Health through the GAVI Initiative and funds from PAHO/WHO.

Security for Staff and Premises

Honduras continues to be the country with the highest murder rate in the world. Insecurity is caused by organised crime (including drug-smuggling and its multiple effects and consequences) and common criminality, especially through gangs. The country is classified as Level 3 under the UN Security Level System. During 2014, UNICEF staff were victims of several security incidents. In general, staff live with the constant fear of being victims of some kind of crime, resulting in high levels of stress.

UNICEF Honduras has complied with all security norms: a) security information related to national and international staff kept up to date in the UNDSS data base; b) testing of the zone guardians system carried out; c) monitoring of staff on field trips and of visits/travel of international experts; d) reporting to UNDSS of information on all security incidents and alerts.

The UN Common Premises are equipped with security cameras at all strategic points and staffed by qualified and well-trained security personnel. All staff must carry their Photo ID card and have electronic entrance passes, which also regulate access to different parts of the building. Entry of visitors is strictly controlled. There were no significant security incidents on the premises during the year. In 2014 the tender for supply of security services for the next five years was issued.

The security situation limits the areas where staff can travel safely and often complicates planning of travel. Staff are not allowed to stay overnight in certain areas and night-time road travel is not allowed. The existence of an Operations Centre manned 24/7, 365 days a year makes it possible to monitor the safety and security of staff on mission and keep everyone informed of any security alerts or issues that arise.

Fortunately there were no security incidents during field trips by UNICEF staff. All staff completed basic and advanced field security courses. Security clearances are requested through UNDSS 48 hours in advance. For emergency-related travel, urgent clearance is requested when required. UNDSS provided an updated list of authorised hotels that meet UN security requirements and all staff adhered to the list. The Security Operations Centre monitored all trips and missions through regular mobile phone contacts and UHF/CHF radio. Drivers received updated training in defensive driving. One driver also underwent a training of trainers for the Road Safety Programme.

The costs of UN House security are shared among the UN System agencies. UNICEF's share of annual costs amounts to US\$21,680. However UNICEF receives a budget allocation of only US\$3,100 annually, which is insufficient to cover its portion of essential and investment costs. Some additional funds have been provided by HQ, but the Office has to resort to seeking savings from other programme and budget costs to cover the balance.

Human Resources

Proposed changes in office structure resulting from the changes in the Results Framework and programme strategy emerging from the Mid-term Review were submitted to the June 2014 Programme and Budget Review (PBR). The staff redeployment plan included mitigation measures for eight staff members whose posts were to be abolished. Two staff members were separated, two availed of bridging action to normal retirement, whilst three were selected for vacant posts. In one case the abolition date for the post was deferred to allow the staff member to take advantage of bridging action for early retirement.

During the MTR the need for strengthening staff competencies emerged, particularly in terms of results-based management and programming for equity. Follow-up was done through normal staff supervision and during work-planning and review sessions as well as a specific orientation session facilitated by LACRO colleagues.

Inter-sectoral work teams were formed, based on the 2014 work plan results, and each staff member was made accountable for their expected contribution to their achievement. These agreements were incorporated into the Annual Management Plan to be monitored by the CMT and included in each staff member's PAS. Preparation, review and completion of PAS system requirements functioned in a timely and effective manner.

The team-based approach introduced during the year has worked well and will be consolidated during 2015. Sharing ideas, more collaborative work between sectors/sections, and an open

attitude to the contributions of others are all elements that need to be promoted.

As part of the response to the crisis related to returnee migrant children, UNICEF Honduras hired a group of experts in child protection in humanitarian situations, a communications expert and a driver, all based in San Pedro Sula, to support the National Directorate for Children and the Family in coordinating the response. In November an internal workshop was organised for staff on contingency planning and UNICEF's Early Warning Early Action System. At this time, UNICEF updated its risk analysis and redefined priority emergency scenarios and its possible responses. UNICEF Honduras' state of readiness was also analysed and key preparatory actions identified.

Supervisors and supervisees were trained in Managing People for Results to develop skills for more productive performance discussions. This had been identified in earlier staff surveys as an area requiring special attention, particularly in terms of skills for better performance planning by supervisors and supervisees and provision of feedback for professional development. The Representative and the Staff Association urged all staff to participate in the 2014 Global Staff Survey, which was eventually completed by 12 out of 18 staff.

PAHO provided support for updating UNICEF staff on organisational policies on "UN Cares". Subjects covered included prevention of HIV, HIV testing, policies against discrimination in the workplace and PEP kit application protocols.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

The most important ICT activities during the year were related to updating the CO's software and hardware, in line with Global Help Desk standards and instructions. A new back-up server was installed and tape backup systems were replaced by hard drives, making backup more efficient and secure.

As foreseen in the Office's Business Continuity Plan, seven new laptops were purchased so that all essential staff have mobile equipment for use outside the office whenever the need arises. Eight VHF radios were also obtained, to replace some obsolete models and provide additional staff with equipment. Four sets of satellite phones were also acquired to replace the obsolete Mini-M equipment.

ICT advances were instrumental in allowing UNICEF Honduras to support the national response to the crisis involving returnee child migrants (See section on Humanitarian Action). Increased movement and mobility of staff during the emergency required greater use of laptop computers and communications equipment. Regular tele-conferences with LACRO and UNICEF Mexico, Salvador and Guatemala took place through Lync during the migration emergency. The Regional Office used Share Point to share documents on migrant children, which were useful in advocacy and technical discussions with the Government.

The Communications area has intensified its use of social networks for disseminating information about the work of UNICEF and its objectives, focussing primarily on adolescents and "Millennials" (aged 15-34) as the primary audiences. In 25 municipalities, children and adolescents use CyberCOMVIDA calls to disseminate messages through social networks. The CyberCOMVIDA is physical space at the municipal level, where children and adolescents can have access to the Internet for social network and online training/education. Volunteers helping to implement the "Return to Happiness" activities in the response to child migrants' crisis made extensive use of Facebook to share stories, news and experiences.

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 Advocacy with national authorities for the Action Strategic Plan for the implementation of the ECD policy and National Plan for nutrition, including breastfeeding

Analytical Statement of Progress

By the time of the MTR the major achievements in this area were:

1. The country has a normative framework for ECD: Through the leadership of the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (SDIS) policies on Social Protection and Integrated Early Childhood Development were approved in 2012. In 2013 the Strategic Plan for implementing PAIPI and the Operational Plan for 2014 were developed. These instruments form the basis of the work of the Inter-institutional Committee for Early Childhood Development which is composed of state entities, NGOs and cooperation agencies.
2. Design and implementation of the National Early Childhood Register: The National Early Childhood Registry (RENPI) was strongly promoted by SDIS for monitoring and following up the integrated care provided to children under the age of six, through health, education, protection and recreation interventions, identifying them through their unique birth registration number. SDIS implemented RENPI in 29 municipalities, registering almost 74,000 children under the age of six living in indigenous areas and in vulnerable conditions. The system uses the database of birth registers and data from the Ministry of Health (on immunisation and nutritional surveillance) and Ministry of Education (data on enrolment in pre-basic) is fed into it online.

Partnerships to make RENPI functional were developed with local social protection boards, municipal governments and private companies in the departments of Intibucá, Choluteca, Lempira, Valle and Atlántida. Major efforts were needed to ensure that ministries systematically feed their data into RENPI, so that information can be analysed comprehensively and be used for monitoring ECD policy implementation.

OUTPUT 3 Staff costs for National policy on ECD.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

This output was discontinued after the 2014 Mid-Term Review. It was decided not to use separate outputs to assign indirect costs of programme implementation (mainly those related to personnel) but instead to distribute them against other outputs.

OUTCOME 2 By 2016, 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:

The Government of Honduras has moved toward the creation of an organisational model for comprehensive care in early childhood within the framework of the national strategy "Bringing up Children with Love", which puts into operation the national policy on Provision of Care in Early Childhood. For this a comprehensive roadmap of care required by children from 0-to-5 years of age was developed, creating standards for the provision of a range of services to be

delivered through health, education, civil registration, cultural and child protection institutions. A model for inter-institutional management and coordination is being developed that includes joint planning mechanisms, results-based budgeting, and monitoring of results for equity. The management model is based on data and evidence generated by the National Registration System for Early Childhood, which in 2014 was incorporated into the National Centre for Social Sector Information.

The Ministry of Finance confirmed its decision to ensure within the national budget for 2015 an allocation for investments in early childhood, both through central-level government institutions and transfers to municipalities, which by law must assign 5 per cent of their total investments to programmes for children. AMHON has played a very active role in follow-up and monitoring of this central Government commitment in terms of the actual allocation of these resources and their implementation by municipalities.

At the same time, a model based on family- and community-level action for comprehensive care in early childhood is being consolidated. In the western departments of Lempira and Intibucá, which have a predominantly indigenous population, the municipal regions of Colosuca y Lenca Eramaní have been implementing a programme of comprehensive care for children under the age of six in 11 municipalities. The programme encompasses strengthening the capacity of health volunteers/promoters and other community leaders to carry out educational, communication and community organisation activities for early childhood development. Through household visits they promote proper care for children and pregnant women, identify situations of vulnerability and refer cases to relevant institutions.

OUTPUT 1 By 2016 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:

1. Families and communities in 7 municipalities in Lempira and Intibucá departments have strengthened their leadership capacity and knowledge of early childhood care:

Some 116 community leaders (63 women and 53 men), among them health volunteers, midwives, members of community-based organisations ("patronatos") and water boards, were trained and oriented on breastfeeding, integrated care of children, nutrition, institutional births, early stimulation and ARIs. This group of volunteers provided health education to 8,150 families, promoting integrated care for 11,300 under-fives and reaching 1,932 women for pre-natal care. The total number of children reached equals about 14 per cent of all children under the age of five in the two departments.

2. Sectoral authorities have tools to facilitate improvements in management capacity:

Some 2,250 families in the community of Lenca Eramani (18 per cent of all families) and 7,720 families in Colosuca (100 per cent of families) were incorporated into a community information system that registers the nutritional status of children, immunisation coverage, and health conditions in the home. The system is conceived so that health and municipal workers can focus actions for health promotion and integrated care. Moreover, 550 households benefitted through the provision of vegetable seeds for family gardens.

UNICEF supported community-level actions in partnership with the Ministry of Health, producers' cooperatives, the Ministry of Education, and NGOs (among them World Vision and PLAN-Honduras). UNICEF Honduras advocated with municipal authorities for early childhood

care to be incorporated into the PMIAJ, and for resources to be made available to the technical units in the communities of Colosuca y Lenca Eramaní for implementing activities such as health promotion at family and community level, developing knowledge and capacity for early stimulation and psycho-social development.

OUTPUT 2 By 2016, Municipal Emergency Committees in the municipalities most vulnerable to disasters have plans for emergency preparedness and response

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Eleven municipalities in the south and west of the country have strengthened their capacities in emergency preparedness and response:

Around 24,600 people, including 12,800 children and 6,400 women living in communities especially vulnerable to disasters, were trained in emergency preparedness.

Municipal Emergency Committees in the 11 municipalities and 48 Local Emergency Committees belonging to the "Mancomunidades" of Nasmar and Colosuca, which are constantly under threat from flooding, mudslides and drought, were trained in vulnerability and (response) capacity analysis, and prepared community and municipal level emergency plans. In addition, 1,250 hygiene kits for emergency use were pre-positioned in these communities. Thirty schools carried out simulation exercises, organised emergency committees and developed school emergency plans.

The municipal level training and preparation activities were carried out before the onset of the emergencies that affected the country in 2014, and which affected many of these municipalities. The actions undertaken through regular programme activities represented important preparation, mitigation and response measures in affected municipalities and communities.

To achieve these results UNICEF worked closely with the Permanent Commission for Contingencies to implement the training and carry out vulnerability and response capacity analyses. Support was also provided for strengthening inter-municipal technical units to carry out risk-management analysis – activities which had not been explicitly included in municipal agendas. These activities were closely coordinated and implemented, with collaboration of the Ministry of Education, the Risk Management Table for the country's southern zone, the Red Cross, World Vision and the Fire Brigade.

OUTPUT 3 By 2016, 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:

The National Registration System (RNP) has strengthened its capacity and developed strategies for increasing birth registration:

Four public hospitals in the cities of Gracias, Choluteca, Intibucá y Santa Rosa de Copán have established birth registration offices. This represents an important advance toward ensuring that all births are registered immediately and reducing the rate of under-registration in the country. These four hospitals are part of the group of 10 hospitals where registration offices were set up with the cooperation from OAS, PAHO/WHO and Spain, representing 43.5 per cent of the country's public hospitals.

Almost 53 percent of the 157 municipal registration offices in the country have automated their birth registration systems. Some 20.3 per cent are connected on-line to the central database and cover 53 per cent of the country's population. This facilitates the installation of RNP

auxiliary offices in public hospitals and enhances connectivity between hospitals, municipalities and the central data base. The opening of additional offices will help to reduce under-registration, which stands at 4.5 per cent nationally.

Through this initiative RNP will be able to immediately register almost 11,000 children born every year in the four hospitals, helping to ensure the timely, universal and free registration of all children born in public hospitals and reach the goal of reducing under-registration to 3 per cent in 2015.

UNICEF's contribution to these achievements took place mainly through the provision of equipment for the four hospital offices and funds for training of civil registrars at the municipal level, as well as training of birth registration promoters among health sector personnel and public awareness campaigns.

OUTPUT 4 Project support costs for integrated ECD for the first 1000 days.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

This output was discontinued after the 2014 Mid Term Review. It was decided not to use separate outputs to assign indirect costs of programme implementation (mainly those related to personnel) but instead to distribute them against other outputs.

OUTPUT 5 By 2016 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 Ministry of Health has improved capacity to implement quality standards related to nutritional surveillance of children under five years of age and exclusive breastfeeding practices: In 2014 the Lempira Health Region, which includes 26 per cent of all the municipalities in priority Departments, began to implement the "Norms for Nutritional Surveillance of Children under the Age of Five" developed on the basis of WHO standards. This will create the necessary conditions for 45,000 children under five in the Region to benefit from nutritional surveillance. The Ministry of Health was responsible for local coordination in the Intibucá and Lempira Health Regions, with municipal governments, World Vision and various local managers to provide training and follow-up on application of the norms.

The Tegucigalpa Teaching Hospital, which attends an average of 22,000 births a year, started the certification process for the Baby-Friendly Hospitals Initiative to promote exclusive breastfeeding. With the incorporation of this Teaching Hospital into the Initiative, 14 hospitals are now covered (61 percent of public hospitals in the country).

The capacity of staff in the Intibucá and Lempira Health Regions in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) was strengthened through training on the *Manual for Integrated Care of Pregnant Mothers*:

According to Ministry of Health estimates, in the Lempira Health Region almost 13,300 pregnant women would be reached in 2014 with counselling services and tests for HIV, along with 10,073 women in the Intibucá Region.

UNICEF's contribution towards these results included the provision of equipment and materials for nutritional surveillance – scales, height measurement instruments, educational materials and growth charts – as well as funds for training of health personnel.

OUTPUT 6 By 2016 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:

1. Government political commitment exists to implement the National Policy on Integrated Care in Early Childhood:

At the end of 2014 the Government assumed responsibility for coordinating inter-institutional efforts needed to implement the National Policy on Integrated Care in Early Childhood, and to gradually increase investment in programmes catering to early childhood development. The Inter-institutional Commission was reactivated, consisting of officials of the Office of the First Lady, the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion, the ministries of Education and Health, the National Centre for Social Sector Information, the National Registration System and UNICEF.

UNICEF provided technical support for the preparation of key strategic documents, including: a) the definition of the institutional architecture for managing the subject of early childhood; b) a roadmap for actions to be undertaken; and c) a pilot plan for the country's two poorest municipal regions (Colosuca and Lenca Eramaní) located in the west of the country.

A National Forum on Early Childhood was held in 2014 with participation by more than 100 officials from Government and local NGOs. Experts from Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador and the UNICEF Regional Office exchanged ideas and contributed to strengthening the conceptual basis of a national strategy – *"Raising Children with Love"* – which has become the platform for implementing the national ECD policy.

2. The National Register of Early Childhood (RENPI) managed to increase its coverage by 20 per cent during 2014.

RENPI increased its coverage to 328,461 children under the age of five (49.8 per cent girls, 50.2 per cent boys), out of a total population in this age group of some 1.2 million children. RENPI is conceived as a platform for the development of a system of indicators for monitoring and following-up on the integral development of children from 0 to 5.

To help achieve these results UNICEF contributed primarily through the provision of equipment, technical assistance and funds for the training and mobility of the technical teams of the National Centre for Social Sector Information (CENISS), responsible for RENPI.

OUTCOME 3 By 2016, a system is in place for providing children and adolescents with protection from violence in its various manifestations and forms

Analytical Statement of Progress:

At the end of 2013 the National Congress approved the integral reform of laws related to children and the family, harmonising Honduran legislation with the CRC. This comprehensive and profound legal reform required adaptation of the institutional framework to make it feasible to restructure and effectively put into operation the System for the Integrated Protection of the Rights of the Child.

Honduras has had a National Policy for the Prevention of Violence against Children, Adolescents and Youth and a corresponding Plan of Action since 2013. A Committee for the

Prevention of Violence (COPREV) was created to serve as the entity for coordinating and following-up on the Plan. However, the political, financial and institutional support/viability needed to actually implement the law was lacking and COPREV was unable to function on a regular basis.

As part of a major process of reform, restructuring and reorganisation initiated by the new Government (elected at the end of 2013), in the first quarter of 2014 the National Cabinet for Prevention of Violence was created to act as the entity responsible for oversight and coordination of programmes, projects and services for the prevention of violence against children. It is presided over by the Secretary (Minister) for the Presidency, and composed of ministers, civil society organisations, and representatives of international cooperation entities. At the same time the Sub-Secretariat for Prevention of Violence was created as part of the Ministry of Security.

UNICEF Honduras has provided support to help strengthen spaces and opportunities for dialogue and inter-institutional coordination for the implementation of programmes between the main public entities that constitute the System for Protection against Violence: the National Violence Prevention Programme (under the aegis of the Presidency), the Supreme Court, the Public Ministry (Attorney General) and the Ministry of Security.

Despite all the efforts and investments as well as advances to date, significant barriers to the effective inter-institutional coordination of the System for Protection against Violence persist. It has not been possible to overcome all the problems of contradictions, gaps, duplication of efforts, weaknesses in institutional leadership and inadequate allocation of funds that the System suffers from, which at various times and contexts are largely governed by political criteria.

UNICEF support has had an impact in terms of reducing the number of cases of institutionalised violence that prevailed in judicial processes and police procedures that violated children's rights. The number of adolescents in detention, for example, fell from 300 in 2013 to 150 in 2014. This was achieved through training workshops and the wide dissemination of materials on the recent legal reforms related to children, the training of custodial staff (prison officers) at Detention Centres for Adolescent Offenders and training of officials from the Ministry for Human Rights and National Commission for Human Rights to ensure better oversight of the system's functioning.

UNICEF also contributed substantially to improvements in the use of and access to innovative instruments such as CONADEH's SIQUEJAS-Web on-line reporting, which functions nationwide 24 hours a day to receive reports of cases of violation of children's rights. All cases are followed through to resolution.

Through UNICEF support the potential for re-victimisation of child victims of various forms of abuse and violence was also reduced: UNICEF advocated with legislative authorities for legal reforms to the Penal Code that would formally recognise the use of *Gesell Camera* evidence as objective and scientifically valid proof when judicial authorities receive pre-trial evidence.

In five priority municipalities with high rates of violence and criminal activity (San Pedro Sula, Tegucigalpa, La Ceiba, Gracias and Juticalpa) a Community Model for Violence Prevention is being implemented. This involves the participation of community leaders, education and health services, families as well as children and adolescents in actions/activities designed to strengthen protective environments and reduce violence-related risk factors. The areas where

the model is being implemented have facilities for family guidance, recreation areas, secure routes for getting to schools with community-provided vigilance, as well as spaces for conflict resolution.

The major challenges in this area are related to: a) the prevailing perception that it is adolescents and youth who are primarily responsible for the situation of extreme violence that mainly affect urban areas; b) widely held attitudes that accept and permit violence against children; and c) the limited opportunities for coordination of efforts and resources between public institutions, civil society and international cooperation.

OUTPUT 1 By 2016, in the framework of the National Plan, National Vision and new Education Law, children receive quality education according to standards, which reflect gender and culture mainstreaming.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The Mid Term Review of 2014 enabled the Country Office to restructure the Country Programme to align it with the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014-2017. As a result this IR has been discontinued as such and been incorporated into Output 3.3 : *"By 2016 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."*

Up to the time of the Mid Term Review, the major achievement was the development of a model for quality education within the framework of Fundamental Law of Education. With technical assistance from UNICEF, the Ministry of Education developed the "Standards for a Model of Quality Education for Basic and Pre-Basic Levels" which include elements related to the physical environment, didactic materials, management and teacher profiles. Also developed were the "School Regulations for Reduction and Prevention of All Forms of Violence in Centres of Education. These documents have provided essential inputs for the formulation of policies and strategies for improving the quality of education in accordance with the Fundamental Law on Education. Violence prevention in schools was also a subject of debate in the National Congress.

OUTPUT 2 By 2016, 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:

Children and families residing in the municipalities of Central District (Tegucigalpa), San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba, Gracias and Juticalpa, areas that have been made a priority because of the high prevalence of violence and criminal activity, have been developing capacities for violence prevention. UNICEF, together with the National Violence Prevention Programme and through the implementation of the Community Model for Violence Prevention, designed and provided technical assistance for training in detection mechanisms and prevention, which in total covered a population of 36,000 children studying in 113 schools, and 860 families.

To achieve these results, 520 technical staff from public institutions (Health, Education and the Municipal Programmes for Children) and NGOs and more than 600 local leaders working with children, families and communities, were trained in methods to prevent intra-family violence, school violence and the consumption of addictive substances.

During the course of 2014, the National Commission for Human Rights (CNDH) received 11,227 complaints from the public, of which 2,338 were related to the violation of children's rights. UNICEF provided technical support and equipment for putting in place the SIQUEJAS-Web system, the purpose of which is to make available to the public a mechanism for on-line reporting of violations of human rights. The system allows reports to be passed on to the Public Prosecutor for investigation of cases of violation of children's rights. The system is available 24 hours a day at the 20 regional and local CNDH delegations and was the modality responsible for the increase in the number of cases being reported.

OUTPUT 3 Project support for Education and Protection

Analytical Statement of Progress:

This output was discontinued after the 2014 Mid-term Review. It was decided not to use separate outputs to assign indirect costs of programme implementation (mainly those related to personnel), but instead to distribute them against other outputs.

OUTPUT 4 By 2016, law enforcement and justice sector operatives (the Police, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Justice) have strengthened capacities for applying an integrated and rights-based approach for dealing with violence, abuse and exploitation.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Almost 1,900 staff of the justice and law enforcement sectors working in the main towns and cities of all 18 of the country's Departments improved their knowledge of the Special Penal Code (Juvenile Justice System) and the response mechanisms for situations of abuse and violence against children. UNICEF, in association with the Training Schools for the Judiciary and the Public Prosecutor, supported the strengthening of the capacity of the judicial system (Judges, Prosecutors, Public Defenders, the Police) for dealing more efficiently and fairly with cases involving violence against children and adolescents, thus improving the performance of their duties as regards the provisions of the juvenile justice system and the faster application of justice. UNICEF participated in the design of the training programme and provided technical support for its implementation.

With UNICEF's support, Gessel Cameras were installed in the Attorney General's offices in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba, Santa Rosa de Copán, Gracias, La Entrada and Santa Bárbara. This facility was used in 64 cases involving boy and girl victims of sexual abuse in these localities. UNICEF also supported the development of the "Instruments for the Implementation y Use of the Gessel Camera" being used by the relevant staff.

UNICEF collaborated with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights in the training of 300 officers of the national penitentiary system on national and international norms related to children's rights; and provided technical assistance for developing a Guide for Organising Local Alternatives for Deprivation of Liberty for Adolescents in Conflict with the Law. This has been a valuable tool for the DINAF to orient and coordinate the setting-up of rehabilitation programmes in various municipalities as alternatives for incarceration.

In collaboration with the Judiciary School, an assessment was carried out of the current status of the Juvenile Justice System in Honduras. The study included data on the types of infractions committed by adolescents, the types of sanctions imposed, and the conditions in which they are carried out. This diagnosis will allow decision makers to orient the institutional and operational reforms necessary for proper implementation of recent legal framework.

OUTPUT 5 By 2016, 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 legislative and policy framework related to children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

DINAF is still fully engaged in the process of being structured, both at central level as well as in regional offices. UNICEF collaborated in setting up three regional offices during the second half of the year. In 2015 it is hoped that the institution will have at least the minimum structures in place to play its role in coordinating public policies in favour of children and the capacity to promote the development of local programmes for attending to cases of violation of rights and to coordinate the system of specialised juvenile justice.

As part of the process of closing down IHNFA, DINAF successfully managed to transfer responsibility for programmes and services for the direct care of children whose rights have been violated (such as street children, victims of abuse etc.) to municipal governments and civil society organisations. UNICEF provided technical support for identifying and accrediting NGOs able to provide the necessary protection services and care.

At the local level, UNICEF provided the impetus for the organisation and strengthening of 177 Municipal Offices for the Defence of Children (*Defensorías*), which now receive continuous technical support from CONADEH through the latter's 19 Department-level offices. These *Defensorías* are local entities with the authority and capacity to attend directly to cases of violation of children's rights and arrange possible solutions or bring cases to the attention of relevant legal authorities, when required.

With support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights designed a social audit strategy for monitoring the National Policy and Plan of Action for Human Rights. Implementation of this strategy as of 2015 will allow policy implementation to be monitored and evaluated, and contribute to ensuring that a rights-based approach is followed in the public sector and that human rights, including children's rights, are protected and respected.

OUTCOME 4 By 2016, 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:

Between 2013 and 2014, in the five priority Departments for UNICEF cooperation (Copán, Gracias a Dios, Intibucá, Lempira and Ocotepeque), the percentage of children entering the compulsory grade of the pre-basic cycle at the right age/time increased significantly. Net enrolment rate for this grade increased from 49 per cent in 2013 to 57 percent in 2014, according to initial estimates based on data from the System for the Administration of Educational Centres. Access in the first two cycles of basic education (Grades 1 to 3 and 4 to 6) remained practically the same, with net enrolment decreasing very slightly from 73.6 per cent to 73.0 per cent.

Partly as a result of UNICEF advocacy, the Ministry of Education issued a Ministerial Accord reducing the requirements and simplifying the process for the opportune enrolment of children in the pre-basic and 1st Grades, using as evidence for this move the findings of the study on exclusion and barriers to enrolment. Concurrently, teachers and local education authorities at department, district and municipal level were sensitised to actively promote in their communities the enrolment of children at the proper time and age.

To continue increasing coverage, more progress must be made in removing socio-cultural barriers among families, mainly in rural areas. UNICEF will continue to support SEDUC in implementing the Communications for Development strategy launched in November 2014 during the pre-enrolment period. It will also continue to support the implementation of the Plan for Universalisation of Pre-Basic Education, the goal of which is to ensure over the next three years the inclusion of the approximately 65,000 five-year-olds who do not enrol or are unable to do so.

The country has managed to reduce the rate of repetition and lagging-behind in terms of age-for-grade enrolment for the pre-basic cycle and in Grade 1 in the five priority Departments. According to estimates, the percentage of children enrolled who are one or more years behind in terms of grade-for-age in pre-basic fell from 41.3 per cent in 2013 to 26.4 per cent in 2014, whilst in Grade 1 the percentage fell from 20.5 to 9.2 per cent.

To reduce repetition and lagging behind, UNICEF has advocated with local education authorities, school directors and teachers in the first cycle of basic education to try to ensure that children are able to advance from grade to grade at the right age. UNICEF also helped influence SEDUC to issue a ministerial instruction to encourage the promotion of children from Grade 1 to Grade 2, to avoid repetition at this particularly sensitive point in the education cycle.

There has been, on the other hand, a slight increase in the drop-out rates in the basic cycle (from 1.2 to 1.6 percent) and in the pre-basic cycle (0.5 to 0.8 per cent). In this regard, future actions for preventing drop-out will focus on training teachers in three child-friendly school approaches: implementation of the methodology "The Active and Participatory School", Quality Standards in the Management of Basic and Pre-basic Education and implementation of Internal Regulations for Educational Centres for the Prevention of All Forms of Violence. In addition, there will training for parents on effective participation in school management through the "School for Mothers and Fathers" programme. Through the C4D strategy, messages will be disseminated on preventing drop-out and abandoning of schooling, aimed primarily at adolescents and their families.

In terms of actual learning, academic performance has shown improvements. According to the National Report on Academic Achievement in Spanish Language and Mathematics, between 2010 and 2013 the average score of pupils in Grade 6 in mathematics improved from 37 to 57 per cent, and for Spanish Language from 60 to 70 per cent. Moreover, according to the results of UNESCO's Third Regional Study of Education Quality, Grade 3 pupils in Honduras scored in tenth place among the LAC countries evaluated, both in mathematics and language.

UNICEF's contribution to improving academic performance was achieved through support to the implementation of the "Everyone Can Learn" methodology in the training of teachers, specifically in Spanish and Mathematics, and the introduction of didactic materials for developing children's capacities. In 2013, the approach was implemented for the Grade 1 of Primary and in 2014 for Grade 2. During 2015 implementation will continue with Grade 3 and with the training of local trainers specialising in Mathematics and Spanish. They will be responsible for training teachers for the first and second cycles of education and for introducing relevant curricular improvements and adaptations.

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:

1. SEDUC completed the preparation of the Plan for Universalisation of the Pre-basic Level of Education, which was approved and adopted by the Government through the Office of the President.

For the Plan, UNICEF provided technical support to SEDUC for the design of attention modalities, implementation strategies, costing and identification of sources of financing. A team of consultants continues to work on the development of tools for the gradual implementation of the Plan in five Departments, starting in 2015. An alliance to ensure the financial viability of the Plan was established through the Roundtable for External Cooperation in Education. The private sector and NGOs have also become partners in this alliance.

2. Local actors in the education system in 18 municipalities have adopted the Monitoring Results for Equity System (MoRES) system and, based on the evidence generated, are implementing corrective measures to remove barriers and bottlenecks. The system also uses a web platform to facilitate the collection of data at sub-national and local levels. The findings of the first MoRES survey carried out during 2013 were analysed with education authorities and local actors from 18 municipalities in five priority Departments. This process focussed on barriers to timely enrolment and causes of repetition and lagging-behind; findings were used, among other things, for developing the Communications Strategy. UNICEF provided consultancy services to develop a web platform for the on-line up-loading of data collected in the field. In addition technical support was provided for developing new indicators that will enable monitoring of progress in the Communications Strategy. A second survey, focussing on family and community attitudes and participation, was carried out in November 2014. Strategies and measures for removing bottlenecks and reducing barriers will be further developed in the programming for 2015.

3. The Ministry of Education has completed the conceptual design for a new data warehouse system and also has an up-to-date diagnosis of the state of its information systems and the educational indicator framework. UNICEF provided technical assistance for designing a data warehouse system which efficiently integrates within it the various information sub-systems handled by the Unit for the National System of Information on Education in Honduras (USINIEH). An assessment which highlighted the limiting factors for the development of an integrated information system was completed and will serve as a guide for the conception of the system to be used for the main indicator monitoring requirements of the Ministry. UNICEF also supported the Unit for Planning and Evaluation of Management to develop an information support system for monitoring and evaluation functions.

OUTPUT 2 By 2016, the system of education in six departments has acquired the capacities required for decentralised and participatory management as well as the necessary pedagogical capacity.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

- 1) In 2014 coverage of the "Everyone Can Learn" strategy (TPA or *Todos Pueden Aprender*) spread to 181 schools, or 29 per cent of schools in the 18 municipalities of priority Departments where the programme was launched in 2013. This methodology was implemented for Grade 1 in 2013, Grade 2 in 2014 and will expand to cover Grade 3 in 2015. The approach seeks to remove the barriers caused by very traditional teaching methods in the classroom, which limit the development of problem-solving,

communication and analytical skills, affecting pupil performance, especially in the first and second cycles of basic education. The TPA was adapted to and aligned with the Basic National Curriculum Design, through the development/application of modules containing didactically structured and sequenced activities for Mathematics and Spanish.

Twenty-two district and municipal level Directors of Education from the 18 municipalities were trained in techniques for monitoring and supervision of school directors and teachers for the implementation of the TPA methodology in the classroom. In addition, 301 Grade 1 and Grade 2 teachers received training in the methodology for Spanish and Mathematics; 76 local specialists also received training as trainers for the same subjects.

2) Local actors have acquired capacities for using the Inter-cultural Bilingual Education approach (EIB), which promotes children learning in their own language and taking into account their culture and beliefs, leading eventually to a multi-lingual approach. Seventy departmental, district and municipal education officers, 89 school directors, 345 Grade 1 and Grade 2 teachers, and 66 mothers and fathers were trained in the EIB methodology for the Misquito, Chortí and Lenca indigenous groups in 20 municipalities and three Departments (Copán, Lempira, Gracias a Dios).

OUTPUT 3 Project support costs for Access to pre-school primary completion.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

This output was discontinued after the 2014 Mid-Term Review. It was decided not to use separate outputs to assign indirect costs of programme implementation (mainly those related to personnel), but instead to distribute them against other outputs.

OUTPUT 4 By 2016, 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:

1. The Ministry of Education has a Communications for Development strategy, which has been validated by authorities, technical staff and the community and is being implemented. The strategy is especially geared to parents in communities in 18 municipalities of the five priority departments and seeks to promote the removal of barriers related to knowledge (age-appropriate entry and enrolment), beliefs (erroneous/negative perceptions of the importance and value of education) and social norms (participation in the running of schools). The strategy was finalised in August 2014.

2. Local actors in the selected communities have developed capacities to implement the communications strategy in the country's western region.

Twenty-two district and municipal directors, 18 mayors, 18 Municipal Committees for Educational Development, 362 teachers and school directors, School Development Councils, parents' associations and school patronage groups from 181 schools all learned about the strategy, the barriers that need to be removed and how to use local media effectively.

UNICEF provided technical support for designing the strategy, the production of communications materials and dissemination of messages through local mass media. SEDUC also received support for delivering key information and messages through household visits in priority municipalities. Among the communications used in the first stages of the strategy were:

two TV spots, six radio jingles, broadcasts by 13 local radio stations (played on average eight times a day, giving a total of 6,000 plays); 36,000 flyers printed and distributed to parents in every community; and 6,000 posters placed in strategic locations in all communities. As a result of the success of the campaign, SEDUC decided to use its own funds to print 2 million leaflets and posters to spread these key messages throughout the country.

3. Preliminary estimates from a survey carried out in October 2014 as part of UNICEF/ Government efforts in Monitoring Results for Equity showed that the proportion of the population of the 18 priority municipalities having an adequate knowledge of the norms on the appropriate ages for entry and enrolment in schools rose from 46 per cent in 2013 to 61 per cent in 2014. Civil society organisations represented on Municipal Council for Development of Education also joined in this initiative. The Council includes mayors, local school patronage groups, representatives of educational institutions, parents, and student councils. Two mayoral offices in Copan department even produced their own localised TV spots based on the strategy, obtaining support from the municipality and local cable enterprises

OUTCOME 5 By 2016, adolescents, especially those exposed to vulnerable conditions, such as urban marginalised areas, indigenous and afro- Honduran group, are empowered and participate to fulfil their rights to achieve their full potential through increased learning opportunities.

OUTPUT 1 By 2016, municipal governments have the ability to implement a model of comprehensive protection that includes prevention of HIV from the community level or in adolescents, building citizenship and life skills.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The Mid-Term Review of 2014 enabled UNICEF Honduras to restructure its Country Programme to align it with the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014-2017. As a result this output was discontinued, and its substance incorporated into Output 4.4: “By 2016 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.”

Following MTR completion, the greatest achievement in this area was the incorporation of HIV education in schools. The Municipal Programmes for Children, Adolescents and Youth (PMIAJ) located in 50 municipalities with high HIV prevalence (in the departments of Cortés, Comayagua, Atlántida, Colón, Copán, Lempira, Intibucá, Choluteca, Valle, El Paraíso, Olancho, Yoro and Central District) have been the main platform to reach nearly 4,000 urban and rural schools and nearly 325,000 adolescents. All municipalities almost entirely finance these Programmes, which are officially incorporated in the municipal organogram. UNICEF complements this investment, with support from Canadian Cooperation, in the context of the Municipal Health Project (MUNSALUD). Since 2012, all staff engaged in the Programmes have been paid with municipal resources, and 50 municipalities provide physical space for programme operation. Municipalities directly coordinate their interventions with schools, and promote peer-to-peer learning methodology. The programmes also take advantage of open public spaces for their activities, including national theatre festival, soccer for life, and Student Governments activities, aiming at working with adolescents and young people left outside from formal education system, among other activities.

OUTPUT 2 By 2016 children and adolescents in priority municipalities are participating in processes for the formulation and follow-up of policies and programmes that are relevant for their all-round development including prevention of HIV, teenage pregnancy and various forms of discrimination, violence, abuse and exploitation.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Within the Programme for Children, Adolescents and Youth, in 70 per cent of the programme's 50 priority municipalities' networks have been created to permit the active participation of girls, boys, adolescents and young people in different ways – as child communicators, in school/student governments, local theatre groups, as municipal defenders of rights and volunteers for "Communication and Life". These participation networks have been able to achieve recognition and establish a presence in the municipal sphere - and at the national level - as a model for changing the perceptions of children and adolescents in the face of adversity and vulnerability, such as the spread of HIV-AIDS, violence and other situations where their rights are violated.

OUTCOME 6 By 2016, the country has the system, at national and municipality level to follow up the fulfilment of the rights of children and adolescents

OUTPUT 1 By 2016, the country has a monitoring and surveillance system of the situation of children with gender focus which facilitate the analysis of disaggregated data, the planning, monitoring, evaluation and accountability of social policies and national (and sub national) budget, in the framework of national and international instruments of human rights.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The 2014 Mid-Term Review enabled UNICEF Honduras to restructure the Country Programme, aligning it with the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014-2017. As a result this output was discontinued and incorporated into Output 4.1: "By 2016 the Government is generating evidence and is managing knowledge that adequately inform and orient policies and programmes for children and adolescents".

The main achievement to date was reactivation of a web platform for accessing and using available information from the System of Social Indicators on Children, Adolescents and Women (SISNAM), which is administered by INE, which received technical assistance for upgrading its data base from the 6.1 version of DevInfo to the user-friendly Version 7.1, and making it easily accessible on-line by any person or Government technical staff. In addition, the system was updated to include the latest available data, new indicators were added and the inter-institutional committee consisting of institutions that feed information into SISNAM was reactivated, after not having met for over a year.

OUTCOME 7 By 2016 the social policy framework for children and adolescents incorporates an equity focus and is evidence-based

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The entity responsible for national statistics, INE, acquired capacity to administer and scrutinize a system of indicators on the situation of children and trained users in other Government institutions. In addition, the Inter-Institutional Committee for Vital Statistics has developed a roadmap for cleansing and updating the country's vital statistics, thus strengthening the statistics system as a whole. The National Autonomous University of Honduras generated more disaggregated data for municipal levels on the prevalence of violence against children, at the same time strengthening the institution's capacity in human rights and the analysis from a rights

perspective in preparation for the establishment of an Observatory of the fulfilment of children's rights. Future interventions and support will focus on ensuring that INE is able to strengthen its capacity for coordinating the national statistics system, starting with its leadership role in the SISNAM committee which bring together a large number of key institutions in the fulfilment of children's rights.

SEFIN developed the capacity to measure and monitor public spending on children, and key players in the process of measuring and institutional follow-up of public investment in children were sensitised on the importance of such exercises. Tools are available to enable members of the public to comprehend the national budget and social spending, whilst Government authorities now have much more detailed and disaggregated data and evidence on public investment directed at children. Future actions will focus on fully institutionalising this kind of measurement and strengthening Government capacity for promoting effectiveness and efficiency of social expenditure.

Evidence and data were collected on socio-economic vulnerabilities facing children and families to orient the development of an integrated system of social protection for children that can achieve wider coverage than has been possible to date: five years ago 58 per cent of children living in poverty had no kind of social protection whatsoever. Support was provided to SEDIS to strengthen its capacity for monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes. Future actions will have to focus on advocacy to ensure that the evidence generated is actually used for the elaboration of a legal framework for the integrated social protection system and for operational plans that include costs, strategies and implementation planning.

According to the regulations of the 2015 Budget, the budgetary allocation for children, adolescents and other vulnerable populations coming from transfers to municipalities by the central Government was increased from 15 per cent to 40 per cent. UNICEF contributed to this achievement in alliance with the Association of Municipalities of Honduras (AMHON), through training and advocacy with all electoral candidates running in 298 municipal races during the electoral process at the end of 2013. This facilitated political dialogue at the municipal level that culminated in the adoption of a "Municipal Pact for a Better Life" signed by AMHON and the Ministry of Governance. In 2015 UNICEF will work on piloting a municipal monitoring and accountability system to follow-up on compliance with this legislation.

Among the actions undertaken in 2014 to reach the planned outcome, one that stands out is the partnership with PAHO/WHO, which through its international experts supported the elaboration of a rapid assessment of the main barriers and bottlenecks in the collection and generation of statistics and the definition of priority actions for developing a more robust system of vital statistics. Support was also provided by UNICEF Offices in Guatemala and El Salvador, within the framework of a multi-country project to support the three governments in the development of integrated social protection systems.

OUTPUT 1 By 2016 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:

1. The National Statistical Institute acquired the capacity to administer and scrutinise a system of indicators on children, put the data on-line and train staff of other institutions in how to use the system:

Five technical staff from INE were trained in administering the SISNAM data base (DevInfo

Version 7) and independently extracting and cleaning up data. In turn they trained 23 technical staff from 16 government institutions in the use of the system and its application for generating reports.

2. The Inter-Institutional Committee for Vital Statistics developed a roadmap for cleansing and updating the country's vital statistics and strengthening the system for their management: The registers (databases) of births and deaths for the years 2007 to 2012 were reviewed and codified and the Committee succeeded in preparing a rapid assessment, which proposed priority lines of action to consolidate and validate the various databases and improve the processes for ensuring that vital statistics are reliable, up-to-date and accessible. Through a partnership with PAHO, the organisation's international experts were brought in to support the preparation of the rapid assessment and the planning of priority actions in 2015.

3. The National Autonomous University of Honduras generated more disaggregated, municipal-level information on violence against children as well as information for improving of administrative registration of crimes against children:

The Institute for Democracy, Peace and Security (IUDPAS) of the National Autonomous University of Honduras published and disseminated four bulletins (two at national level and two covering the five municipalities with the highest rates of violence in the country) with 2012 and 2013 data on deaths from un-natural causes and the prevalence of criminal activity among children. The Institution also prepared an assessment that will allow recommendations to be developed on how to ensure that administrative registers better respond to the requirements of the new judicial framework on violence against children.

4. UNAH's capacity was strengthened in terms of its human rights and situation analysis capabilities, in preparation for the establishment of an observatory on the fulfilment of child rights:

The IUDPAS/UNAH technical team (composed of over ten people) received training in children's rights (the legal framework, definitions, the rights-based and life-cycle approaches) and situation analysis through an equity lens (determinant analysis) in preparation for its role as part of an observatory to monitor the fulfilment of child rights in Honduras.

OUTPUT 2 By 2016 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:

1. Public authorities and the general public and have information available related to public social expenditure and expenditure on children:

The Ministry of Finance (SEFIN) and UNICEF published and disseminated a study entitled "Public Investment in Children and Adolescents during 2013" in order to carry out an initial analysis of budgetary efforts the Government is making on behalf of children and adolescents, and to have a tool to advocate for institutionalising the monitoring of such investments. A more reader-friendly version of the 2014 budget was also prepared and published in the press, together with data on actual budget implementation during the first half of the year, in order to make the information available and accessible to the general public and encourage a social oversight role.

2. SEFIN developed its capacity for measuring and monitoring public investment in children: Ten technical staff from different SEFIN departments (Budget Directorate, Investment and Public Credit, and the Unit for Planning and Evaluation of Management) were trained in

developing the methodology for measuring public investment in children and the use of an information application for automating the process.

3. Key players in the process of measuring and institutional monitoring of public investments in children have been sensitised on the importance and value of the exercise:

The Directorate for Children and the Family, the entity in charge of policies on children and adolescents, the Ministry for General Coordination (in charge of the Government's strategic planning), the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion, the Congressional Commissions for Budget and Children, the Association of Municipalities of Honduras, and civil society organisations have all been sensitised on the need for systematic measurement and monitoring.

UNICEF's contribution to the attainment of these results was to provide technical support for the elaboration of key documents, as well as financing for: hiring experts in the editing and design of more accessible pedagogical versions of key materials; publications and awareness-raising events; international experts for training SEFIN technical staff; and support for Honduras' participation in the 'International Seminar on Investment in Children' held in Peru, through which Honduran technical staff and authorities were able to exchange ideas and relevant experiences with their counterparts from other Latin American countries.

OUTPUT 3 By 2016 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:

1. Evidence for orienting the development of an integrated system of social protection for children has been generated and progress has been made towards ensuring that it is fully owned/accepted by the Government:

In 2014 the Ministry for Development and Social Inclusion (SEDIS) and UNICEF published a study entitled "Social Protection for Children and Adolescents in Honduras: Advances and Challenges in the Development of an Integrated System", carried out in 2013, after review and feedback from technical staff of the Directorate General for Analysis and Evaluation of Policies. Four other qualitative case studies are also underway. These will be used for developing a typology of the main socio-economic vulnerabilities affecting Honduran families.

2. The Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion has strengthened its capacity for monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes:

Progress was made in the development of a methodological roadmap to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes using the Government's "Single System for Evaluation of Public Social Policies".

UNICEF hired a team of experts in vulnerability analysis to carry out a study of the most common vulnerabilities faced by children and adolescents in Honduras and provided SEDIS with technical support for developing a methodological roadmap for monitoring and evaluation of social programmes.

UNICEF Offices in Guatemala and El Salvador provided support to Honduras within the framework of the multi-country project to assist the governments of the three countries in the development of integrated social protection systems.

OUTPUT 4 By 2016 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:

In 14 municipalities in the west of the country (the municipal regions [*Mancomunidades*] of Lempira and Intibucá) the Municipal Programme for Children, Adolescents and Youth has managed to consolidate a comprehensive care and protection model which integrates interventions in health and community participation, aimed at the development of the young child and of adolescents and which includes the following activities and interventions:

1. Promotion of participation and empowerment as the basis for building responsible citizenship among children and adolescents.
2. Promotion of coordination and inter-institutional cooperation through "Networks" that approach the problems and development of children and adolescents in an integrated and more holistic manner.
3. Advocating strongly for municipal-level policies and actions for the integrated development of children and adolescents and the allocation of necessary budgetary resources.
4. Promotion of healthy life-styles – prevention of HIV, adolescent pregnancy and the consumption of alcohol, tobacco and drugs.
5. Provision of child/adolescent-friendly advisory and counselling services and coordination with (formal) health services for adolescents.
6. Recreational, sports and cultural programmes and activities.
7. Promotion of a culture of peace and peaceful coexistence (prevention of violence) especially within the family, among peers and in the community.
8. Support for coordination and linkages with formal, non-formal and informal education programmes.

UNICEF is providing technical assistance in priority municipalities for the effective coordination of the Local System for Integrated Protection of Children and Adolescents, taking as a basis the good practices and experiences of the PMIAJ. To take this approach to scale in municipalities, a "tool kit" for implementation of the PMIAJ is being consolidated and the technical capacities of the municipal coordinators of the programmes are being strengthened. In 2014, twenty-seven municipal coordinators participated in the Diploma Course on Municipal Development offered by UNAH, obtaining knowledge of and capacity for planning and municipal management.

OUTCOME 9 The CPD between the Government of Honduras and UNICEF 2012-2016 has support and adequate capacity for the efficient and effective process of planning, implementation, follow-up, social mobilisation and advocacy with special focus on gender, equity and emergency response management.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The cross-sectoral component allowed the Country Programme to have available the necessary support for overall programme implementation, covering selective staff, equipment and travel costs.

Support provided for communications and advocacy activities was also part of the cross-sectoral effort, and contributed key elements of UNICEF Honduras' up-stream policy and human rights work. As reported above, during 2014 there was very active engagement with the media for advocacy, information sharing and social mobilisation, and a significant increase in the media's role as social intermediary in favour of children. The right to education and violence prevention were two concrete examples where media played an important role in achieving results. The decision to reduce dispersion in UNICEF's communications, to focus on specific priorities (education, breastfeeding, violence prevention) and to better coordinate with the

programmatically, helped to improve effectiveness of the Country Programme. The results on knowledge generation provided data and analysis that supported communication, advocacy and upstream policy work.

OUTCOME 10 Advocacy and Public Relations

Analytical Statement of Progress:

A total of US\$622,533 (100 per cent) was implemented at local level from the BMA budget, mostly to cover staff salaries (US\$429,469 - post category) and Operating Expenses (US\$193,064 – non-post category). UNICEF Honduras was able to cover all its expenses (with BMA and RR funds) and did not require additional funds from LACRO Contingency funds.

OUTPUT 1 The Country Programme highlights and raises awareness of general public, authorities, mass media, and children, on Child Rights, through efficient and innovative advocacy and public relations.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Actions and activities for advocacy, social mobilisation and communications support for the various components of the Country Programme were carried out. The main outputs and results obtained were:

Six communication campaigns implemented through national and local media using various modalities:

a) The "Vote for Children" campaign through which the subject of children and adolescents was inserted into the year's political campaigning at national and local level. This included training and awareness creation on child rights for the vast majority of the candidates for mayor of the 9 political parties standing for election in the country's 298 municipalities. Evidence-based advocacy was also carried out with the 8 candidates for President.

b) The Campaign on "Friendly Cities" to promote prevention of violence at family and community level, carried out in 25 barrios of Tegucigalpa.

c) The "Do your Homework" campaign to promote children's right to education and the active role of parents and teachers in ensuring the mandatory 200 days of class during the school year.

d) The Breastfeeding Campaign, in partnership with the National Breastfeeding Commission, to promote breastfeeding codes and practices and help ensure the approval by the Congress of the new law on the subject.

Other efforts included: support for the regional "Let's Play" initiative of the Regional Office, promoting development through sport; the joint initiative of the UN System in "A brave man is not a violent man" campaign, promoting the prevention of domestic and gender-based violence; and publication of the periodic review "Challenges", on the work of the UN System in Honduras.

Technical support was also provided for the production of the children's programmes made by the "Young Communicators" network and for the elaboration of a document for self-regulation on media programming for children by the Televisión Corporación and United Broadcasters.

Other Publication

Title
"Presupuesto Ciudadano 2014"
Series of 3 booklets published in press about Cities in Budget 2014
"Mirada a la educación hondureña. Algunos indicadores relevantes"