Nicaragua

Executive Summary

Progress is being made in Nicaragua. Poverty in the country fell from 42.5 per cent in 2009 to 29.6 per cent in 2014, and extreme poverty fell from 14.6 per cent to 8.3 per cent in the same period (National Institute of Development Information (INIDE, 2014). Children were the most affected by poverty in 2014, oscillating from 35.4 per cent for children aged 0–5 to 33.9 per cent for children aged 13–17 years old (INIDE, 2014).

Infant mortality dropped from 29 per 1,000 live births in 2006/07 to 17 in 2011/12, while chronic malnutrition among under-5s fell from 21.7 per cent to 17.3 per cent in the same period, according to the Demographic and Health Surveys (2012). In line with the Government priority in 2016 to reduce infant mortality, UNICEF continued supporting the enhancement of health team capacities to improve childbirth-related care through the kangaroo family strategy.

The 2014 National Review Report on Education for All showed advances towards the 2015 goals in gross primary and secondary enrolment rates (cycles I and II). According to Ministry of Education/INIDE data, the gross enrolment rate was 60.9 per cent for preschool, 109.3 per cent and 80.1 per cent, respectively, for primary and middle education in 2014. Although more than 90 per cent was achieved for primary school enrolment, quality remains a challenge. To contribute to educational quality, UNICEF Nicaragua supported training processes for education technical teams and school directors countrywide.

In 2012, the Demographic and Health Surveys showed that 16.4 per cent of women considered physical punishment necessary for bringing up children (13.9 per cent in 2007). On coming into effect, the Family Code established that neither physical punishment nor any kind of humiliating treatment can be used. According to the National Police, complaints linked to crimes of intra-family and sexual violence decreased from 8,123 to 5,774 between 2014 and 2015.

Meanwhile, according to the Supreme Court of Justice-Legal Medicine Institute, there were 8,823 medical legal investigations of crimes of domestic or intra-family violence in 2015, of which 1,293 corresponded to children under the age of 18. For the detection of situations of violence, the Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents and the Ministry of Education developed an early warning and victim care system with UNICEF support. To highlight this problem, UNICEF Nicaragua prioritized the issue of violence prevention in its communication and communication for development (C4D) strategies.

Main achievements:

In the context of the End Violence global initiative, UNICEF Nicaragua enhanced national capacities for prevention of and care for victims of violence, abuse and exploitation. The following concrete results were achieved: the innovative early warning system to identify risk situations and prevent violence against children was implemented in all the country’s municipalities; a specialized care model for victims of sexual abuse and adolescent pregnancy was implemented; 387 family and school counsellors across the country were trained on preventing violence against children; and the capacities of 135 journalists and
artists were strengthened to address violence with a rights-based approach.

UNICEF Nicaragua contributed to improving education quality in three strategic areas: the educational community's participation in school affairs, the development of technical capacities among teachers and school administrators, and modeling context-appropriate alternatives for school water, sanitation and hygiene services. UNICEF provided technical assistance and financial resources for reviewing national strategies and guidelines and adapting them to the Caribbean Coast context, the dissemination of educational strategies and methodologies, and the development of sustainable alternatives for school water supply, sanitation and hygiene.

UNICEF helped reduce neonatal mortality through the implementation of the kangaroo family strategy, the enhancement of local-level capacities to reduce neonatal sepsis, increased immunization coverage, the institutionalization of the mother- and child-friendly health units' strategy, and support for the implementation of a national neonatal hypothyroidism prevention programme.

**Main limitations:**
It is difficult to incorporate local-level programmatic advances and innovations into national policies, and vice-versa, due to weak linkage between the central-level and the Caribbean Coast Autonomous governments.

Limited visualization of UNICEF’s contribution.

The centralized cooperation dynamic has generated delays in terms of the programme reaching the population.

Not having a Representative for over a year, the office being managed by external officers in charge during the first half of the year and a period of adaptation to the new management team all affected programme implementation.

**Main alliances:**
Alliances were enhanced with the media, journalists and artists around the celebration of UNICEF’s 70th anniversary and prevention of violence against children.

The alliance with the Bluefields, Indian and Caribbean University (BICU), the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAN)-León and Central American University was strengthened, while alliances were taken up again with the National Assembly and the Global Movement for Children.

**Humanitarian Assistance**
Due to its geographic position and the effects of climate change, Nicaragua is systematically affected by emergency situations related to droughts, flooding, earth tremors and volcanic eruptions. The country currently has 21 volcanoes forming a chain running north-east to south-east, making it a highly vulnerable area in the region. The Global Climate Risk Index 2015, published by the German environmental organization Germanwatch, ranks Nicaragua fourth out of the countries most affected by climate change. In 2016, certain phenomena put the lives of children and the population in general at risk, including a drought that for more than two consecutive years affected the 33 municipalities of the country’s ‘dry corridor’ and a magnitude 6.1 earthquake that affected western Nicaragua.

On 24 November, Hurricane Otto hit south-eastern Nicaragua just north of the municipality of San Juan de Nicaragua, with maximum sustained winds of 175 km/h (Category 2). In 10 hours, it crossed from east to west, leaving the country at San Juan del Sur.
departments most affected were Río San Juan and Rivas.

On the same day, two hours after Otto made landfall on Nicaraguan territory, the country activated a tsunami warning for the Pacific coast following a magnitude 7.2 earthquake in the Gulf of Fonseca (north-west of Nicaragua). It was deactivated at 3 p.m. These emergency situations were directly managed by Nicaraguan government institutions without calling on the international community. In the case of the drought, the Government of Nicaragua implemented a programme including family food packets to mitigate the effects on families and communities in the 33 municipalities of the ‘dry corridor’, managing to contain child malnutrition, which currently stands at 4.2 per cent. In the case of the earthquake, a ‘red alert’ activated by the President of Nicaragua was maintained from April 2016, when the 6.2-magnitude tremor hit the country, allowing an immediate response from the National Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response System (SINAPRED). Prior to the arrival of Hurricane Otto, 11,678 people from 73 communities were evacuated and moved to 152 shelters, with all of these actions coordinated by SINAPRED.

In line with Nicaragua’s high risk to natural disasters, UNICEF supported the enhancement of national capacities at central level through the holding of workshops on nutrition preparedness and response for emergencies and on water, sanitation and hygiene during emergencies, aimed at government institutions, universities, the National Police, the Red Cross and other actors in SINAPRED’s Technical Health Commission. Meanwhile, a workshop on child protection in emergency situations involved the participation of allied organizations such as Aldeas Infantiles SOS, Educo, the Christian Children’s Fund of Canada, Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

In addition, a training programme was designed for journalists, social communicators, editors and media owners that includes information management tools with an approach based on child rights in emergency situations. The programme mainstreams the issues of comprehensive protection, the inclusion of people with disabilities and the development of family and community-level resilience. This training cycle trained 150 communication professionals from the two Caribbean autonomous regions and six of the country’s departments, including the capital.

Sub-national capacities were enhanced through technical assistance to the North and South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Governments for training processes aimed at 163 child members of school committees that will head up their educational communities’ emergency preparedness and response, as part of the development of community resilience.

Support was also provided for the production of educational materials, with the reproduction of 3,000 copies of the School Safety Guide. These are being used in the training of 165 municipal and regional technicians from the Ministry of Education’s disaster liaison technical units for the production of school safety plans and other actions contemplated in the Emergency Attention Response Strategy.

On the Caribbean Coast, the education, water and sanitation sectors have been accompanied in producing a guidelines proposal for school activities aiming at eliminating the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, responsible for carrying the Zika virus. These guidelines, which will be used for working with schoolchildren at the preschool, primary and secondary levels, are currently being reviewed and will subsequently undergo pedagogical mediation aimed at their incorporation into the region’s study plans and programmes.
Emerging Areas of Importance

Accelerate integrated early childhood development (ECD): The UNICEF Cooperation Programme in Nicaragua has placed special emphasis on early childhood through the identification and implementation of strategies that have helped enhance the institutional response to complying with children’s rights in this part of the life cycle and intersectoral coordination in strategy implementation.

Areas stressed are evidence-based advocacy for prioritized investment in early childhood with an emphasis on the first 1,000 days; support for enhancing the quality of nutritional and breastfeeding counselling in prenatal and community care, the implementation of the ‘Kangaroo Family’ strategy, and the Mother- and Child-Friendly Units Initiative, which have been key factors in reducing neonatal mortality; the institutionalization and expansion of screening and treatment for congenital hypothyroidism; reinforcing interinstitutional coordination to increase birth registration through the health services; the promotion of enabling environments for stimulation, breastfeeding, adequate feeding and child care at the residential, work and institutional levels; and the enhancement of the Growth and Development Monitoring and Promotion programme.

Greater focus on the second decade of life: During 2016, UNICEF Nicaragua focused a good number of its interventions on adolescents and youth through different programmatic areas. It is important to stress that one of the three country programme outcomes is precisely focused on the participation of adolescents and their protection from different forms of violence.

In 2016, with technical and financial support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents developed an early warning system to identify situations of violence, abuse and exploitation being experienced by children and to coordinate actions to help overcome them. This system is operating in 100 per cent of the country’s 153 municipalities. In addition, the Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents advanced with the design of a specialized care model for victims of sexual abuse and adolescent pregnancy, with a strong emphasis on their psychosocial recovery and the development of resilience skills among children and their families.

UNICEF continued to support the judicial branch’s juvenile penal system in expanding its mechanisms for attending adolescents in conflict with the law through the incorporation of courses on new masculinities for the prevention of gender violence. In 2016, 87 adolescents (95 per cent male, 5 per cent female) completed their training and were part of the piloting of this course.

UNICEF also helped increase adolescent participation in the design of responses to social problems. In this respect, thanks to the activities of the BICU Innovation Laboratory, 60 adolescents and youth between the ages of 10 and 20 participated in social innovation camps, during which they conducted assessment studies on the main problems in their communities and suggested innovative solutions to resolve them. In addition, 362 adolescents were trained on twenty-first-century skills, such as monitoring and evaluation, software programming, developing a professional curriculum vitae and preparing for work interviews, social entrepreneurship and forming alliances. In addition, 78 adolescents participated in workshops on knowledge of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in which other youth taught them the principles of the Convention and the importance of knowing about their rights.

Moreover, through the Water and Sanitation component, 87 adolescents in situations of exclusion and risk (60 boys and 27 girls from 5 municipalities in the Southern Caribbean Atlantic Autonomous Region and 1 in the Northern Caribbean Autonomous Region) were
trained on building and plumbing with the aim of helping their insertion into the labour market as part of the restitution of their rights. The course was certified by the National Technological Institute and is now part of the professional training courses it offers.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>BICU</td>
<td>Bluefields, Indian and Caribbean University</td>
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<td>CMT</td>
<td>Country Management Team</td>
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<td>C4D</td>
<td>communication for development</td>
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<td>ECD</td>
<td>early childhood development</td>
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<td>HACT</td>
<td>Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>information and communication technology</td>
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<td>INIDE</td>
<td>National Institute of Development Information</td>
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<td>PAHO</td>
<td>Pan-American Health Organization</td>
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<td>PAMOR</td>
<td>Love for the Smallest Ones Programme</td>
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<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<td>SILAIS</td>
<td>Local System for Integral Attention in Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<td>VISION</td>
<td>Virtual Integrated System of Information</td>
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Capacity Development

In 2016, UNICEF contributed to enhancing national- and sub-national-level institutional capacities for the design and monitoring of evidence-based public policies. To this end, it has trained technicians from the Southern Caribbean Autonomous Regional Government Planning Secretariat on issues related to indicators and information management for human development, which has allowed the first steps to be taken towards designing an information and knowledge management system that gathers, stores and disseminates indicators on children and youth in the Southern Caribbean Atlantic Autonomous Region. In addition, a specialist from INIDE participated in workshops and courses organized by the United Nations Statistics Division in Guatemala to update knowledge on the measurement of vital statistics.

Based on national priorities, UNICEF also provided support for skills improvement initiatives for public officials on the issues of health, protection against violence, and water, sanitation and hygiene. For instance, Ministry of Health personnel were trained on the kangaroo family initiative, the monitoring of results for equity system approach and C4D, with the aim of improving pregnancy and perinatal conditions and accelerating the reduction of neonatal mortality.

In addition, a total of 387 family and school counsellors were trained on the prevention of violence among and against adolescents, while 135 journalists and artists were trained on how to address violence against children. Two Supreme Court officials also participated in the Regional Congress ‘United for Children Protected in Information and Community Technologies (ICTs)’ thanks to UNICEF support. Furthermore, national and sub-national technicians increased their capacities for the implementation of sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene strategies through the participation of officials from the Southern Caribbean Autonomous Regional Government and SINAPRED in international workshops on sustainable ecological sanitation and on leadership and coordination in emergencies.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

In the context of its advocacy strategy, UNICEF Nicaragua facilitated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health and UNAN-León for
institutionalizing the congenital hypothyroidism screening programme, managed with limited funds and staff by UNAN-León for 11 years. UNICEF provided support for purchasing reagents and expanding UNAN’s coverage, for producing care and support norms and communication materials to increase demand for tests and care from families, and for training health and community workers to monitor and timely treat diagnosed children. Additionally, the alliance between UNICEF-UNAN allowed for including ECD-related issues in the medicine faculty’s study curriculum.

Additionally, UNICEF worked in alliance with journalists from written, radio, television and digital media for systematically placing the prevention of violence against children on the public agenda. For this, 200 journalists from different regions in the country were trained on the systemic vision of violence, how to treat information on children, and journalistic coverage in emergencies. They established a network of child-friendly journalists, connected through social media, for sharing documentation and producing educational and advocacy materials for the prevention of violence against children. The initiative aims to reach media owners so they can help promote a culture of peace and undermine the idea of violence against children as something natural.

Also, 49 renowned singer-songwriters, performers and musicians were trained on systemic vision of violence against children. They produced the ‘Song with Wings’ to celebrate UNICEF’s 70th anniversary and promote children’s rights to live free from sexual violence. It was launched at the anniversary celebration event and broadcast through television channels and radio stations.

These year-long advocacy efforts were accompanied by 120 digital campaigns, systematically displayed on social networks; life stories; and 79 interviews with social communication media on prevention of sexual violence against children as the main topic for UNICEF’s seventieth anniversary celebrations.

**Partnerships**

In 2016, UNICEF Nicaragua partnered with Nicaragua’s three central-level state branches, local governments, universities, the private sector and civil society. Through its workplans with state institutions and the regional North and South Caribbean Coast autonomous governments, UNICEF has continually contributed to developing national capacities to plan, design, implement and monitor public actions that ensure the rights of children in the areas of education, health, water and sanitation, child protection and disaster prevention, as well as developing their internal management areas.

In terms of alliances with universities, the workplan with BICU allowed young people’s participation in the design of public policies through its Innovation Laboratory. The collaboration agreement with Villanova University and the internship for a student from Boston College have enabled the training of young people on twenty-first-century skills.

In relation to the private sector, UNICEF Nicaragua responded to a request from the Cargill group, sharing evidence with company decision-makers to contribute to the sustainable setting up of a breastfeeding and early childhood programme in the company’s five industrial plants in Nicaragua, with an interest in scaling the experience up to regional level. The collaboration strategy has consisted of the company hiring specialized services for the implementation of these actions, with UNICEF contributing information, contacts and managerial aspects for ongoing improvements in a framework of implementing corporate social responsibility.

Finally, with respect to civil society, UNICEF Nicaragua is part of the Global Movement for Children’s Nicaraguan branch, an alliance of 14 civil society organizations working for child
rights through advocacy strategies, linkage of actions with the Government, social mobilization, child participation and the sharing of experiences. UNICEF is on the different work round tables, where it has addressed specific subjects such as violence prevention, investment in children and the SDGs.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**

The Ministry of Health received technical assistance to implement communication strategies (C4D) in the family and community spheres on adolescent pregnancy, breastfeeding and feeding practices for small children in two Local System for Integral Attention in Health (SILAIS). In the context of the Northern Caribbean Autonomous Region’s Regional Child Policy, 30 members of the journalists’ network from five municipalities received training to produce their own C4D strategies.

Meanwhile, the prevention of sexual violence against children was selected for the campaign marking UNICEF’s seventieth anniversary. This issue was mobilized throughout the year through 78 digital campaigns out of 120 produced and disseminated through social networks, social communication media, and training sessions for influencers.

UNICEF remains the leader in the main social networks in Nicaragua (Facebook and Twitter) in relation to established comparators, with more than 35,000 followers, exceeding the goal for 2016. The total number of impressions was 29 million through traditional communication media and social networks. Meanwhile, publicity (the cost of buying space in the communication media) totalled US$427 million from May to December.

UNICEF celebrated its seventieth anniversary in December, with the participation of more than 1,000 people, including children from various regions of Nicaragua. The event was attended by representatives from central and local governments, diplomatic corps, parents, student volunteers, national artists and journalists. This colourful gala included cultural presentations by different groups of children and a photography exhibition on the milestones of UNICEF cooperation in Nicaragua, in a visual timeline of its work since 1951.

Moreover, the ‘70 years for a childhood free of violence’ national communication for child rights competition was launched to encourage journalists to place prevention of sexual violence against children on the public agenda.

The campaign in celebration of 70 years of UNICEF culminated on 14 December with a special National Assembly session in recognition of the work UNICEF has developed throughout the world.

**South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation**

UNICEF Nicaragua had no specific proposed goal for South-South cooperation in 2016. However, the office’s dynamic and relations with international actors did generate knowledge-sharing exchanges and relationships for new cooperation initiatives.

The Director of the Southern Caribbean Autonomous Regional Government Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Regional Directorate presented the water and gender equity training manual in a workshop on ‘Gender, Water and Energy in Latin America’ in Mexico, organized by the Network for Gender, Society and the Environment and the Institute for Women and the Environment. This manual will be used to give workshops on water with a gender focus to drinking water and sanitation committees and educational communities in the region. The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Regional Directorate will share with the Network for Gender, Society and the Environment any adjustments or changes made during the workshops. It is also proposed to maintain a communication network with the group and share information
about water, energy and gender.

With the aim of learning different ecological sanitation solutions to help minimize the excessive use of water and provide ecologically sustainable solutions for families and communities, two Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Regional Directorate-Southern Caribbean Autonomous Regional Government technicians participated in the Regional Sustainable Sanitation Course given by Grupo Sarar from Mexico. During this gathering, a collaboration agreement was established with Caritas Guatemala, which runs a training process for adolescents and young people at risk. An exchange visit is planned for 2017 to learn about the experience of the Building and Plumbing Course with a Climate Change Focus that the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Regional Directorate-Southern Caribbean Autonomous Regional Government developed in the Caribbean region with UNICEF support.

With technical and financial support from UNICEF, the Central American Integration System’s Education and Culture Commission promoted a common agenda for the region’s different education ministries, particularly to learn about, share and promote strategies that reduce secondary school drop-out. As a result of UNICEF advocacy, the Ministry of Education participated in the commission’s third meeting held in Panama.

### Identification and Promotion of Innovation

Thanks to the activities of the Innovation Laboratory, implemented by BICU and UNICEF, about 60 adolescents (and a total of 100 people) from the country’s most isolated regions actively participated in processes to identify and reflect on the problems affecting their lives and those of their families and communities. This involved the use of the ‘innovation camp’ methodology, a novel process that generates proposals for improving these problems, changing the way that adolescents perceive their role as agents of change given their status as rights holders.

Also, the innovative Toy Contigo (I'm with you) initiative was implemented by the Ministry of Health with UNICEF support. This involves the sending of SMS messages to pregnant women, family members and community leaders to improve communication with excluded populations in the country’s South Caribbean Coast region and ensure compliance with children’s right to survival. As of October 2016, a total of 407 pregnant women and 247 accompaniers from the Bluefields municipality had received more than 30,000 SMS messages on nutritional counselling, breastfeeding promotion, child rearing and the identification of early warning signs during pregnancy. Based on this, regional authorities decided to extend this initiative to the municipality of Laguna de Perlas.

Meanwhile, with UNICEF support, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents developed an innovative early warning system to identify situations of risk and coordinating actions to prevent child violence, abuse and exploitation. In this context, the Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents advanced with the design of a specialized care model for victims of sexual abuse and adolescent pregnancy, with a strong emphasis on their psychosocial recovery and the development of resilience skills among children and their families. The system is operating in all of the country’s municipalities.

Finally, UNICEF Nicaragua provided technical assistance for the start-up of the Nicaraguan SayCel project, one of the five winners of UNICEF’s global Innovation Fund in 2016.

### Support to Integration and Cross-Sectoral Linkages

Despite its high degree of institutional centralization, Nicaragua has the particularity of having two autonomous regions in the country’s Caribbean Coast. The work of UNICEF Nicaragua with the governments of those regions is an example of intersectoral linkages.
Organized in a consolidated workplan for each region, UNICEF’s intervention in this geographic area covers different strategic lines defined in the Country Programme Document.

The planning, implementation and evaluation of this workplan is done in conjunction with the different sectors, fostering synergies that did not previously exist. The different counterparts, most of which are regional government secretariats, work together and collaborate in this dynamic, allowing a much more fluid identification of the complementarities among the different work areas. For example, the joint promotion of the protection and ECD areas allowed an interinstitutional alliance against under-registration in the Southern Caribbean Atlantic Autonomous Region.

Meanwhile, the linkages developed between the social policies section and the protection section allowed the initiation of implementation of the Strategic Regional Child and Adolescent Policy, headed up by the Southern Caribbean Autonomous Regional Government’ Regional Secretariat for Women, Children and Adolescents. In the Northern Caribbean Autonomous Regional Government, the Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities is working with the Regional Committee for Disaster Prevention and Response on the application of guidelines for protocols to follow when attending people with disabilities during emergency situations. This work group also includes BICU, which adds value to government efforts related to innovations, updating its professionals, and knowledge management.

Finally, from a comprehensive perspective, UNICEF’s cooperation in the Caribbean Coast has allowed both regional governments to create and develop information and knowledge management systems through their planning secretariats, in coordination with the other government secretariats. These systems will allow the design and implementation of evidence-based public policies aimed at children.

**Service Delivery**

With technical and financial support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents has enhanced its capacities for analysing and using information to take timely decisions related to situations involving children through the improvement of interconnectivity and the transmission of child-related data. This has involved modernizing the internal LAN WAN network in 100 per cent of its departmental offices and in the central-level Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents offices, allowing the automation of the data collection systems: the Information System of the Government of National Reconciliation and Unity, which involves management and performance data; the Child Support System; and the Protagonist Single Registration System. To ensure sustainability, the Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents is installing a fibre optic system and will receive technical support from UNICEF to enhance the capacities of its technical personnel in relation to data collection, analysis and use.

UNICEF supported the institutionalization of the congenital hypothyroidism screening programme through advocacy and technical assistance for the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Ministry of Health and UNAN-León. In this process, UNICEF Nicaragua provided funds for supplying reagents and expanding UNAN’s coverage; supported the production of care and support norms and communication materials to promote demand for the test from families; and supported the implementation of a training plan for health workers and community leaders to guarantee follow-up and timely treatment for the children being diagnosed.

UNICEF Nicaragua provided support to the Southern Caribbean Autonomous Regional Government to produce a catalogue of technological options for school water, sanitation and hygiene. This contributed to improve planning processes of governmental institutions and
other organizations supporting the education sector for investment in school infrastructure, facilitating investments to be context-appropriate, sustainable and contributing to a healthy environment that promotes school attendance (particularly among girls), reducing the incidence of illnesses and increasing children's learning capacity, thus allowing them to exercise their right to a quality and inclusive education.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

UNICEF cooperation is aimed at reducing inequities, helping to ensure that no child is left behind. Therefore, in agreement with the Government of Nicaragua, the country programme focuses on the country’s 24 most vulnerable municipalities, with emphasis on the Caribbean Coast, whose populations are characterized by being geographically isolated, with multiple ethnic groups and dialects.

Particularly, interventions such as kangaroo family, Toy Contigo (I’m with you) and the building and plumbing courses for youths in situations of exclusion and risk aim to build capacities in those communities to ensure their future sustainability. These local-level experiences are also pointing towards national interventions with a view to the universalization of children’s rights.

In relation to the national environment, the Committee on the Rights of the Child’s General Observation No. 19 was presented this year, providing a better explanation of Convention of the Rights of the Child’s article 4 on investment in children. UNICEF Nicaragua worked on two fronts to expand the government and civil society’s knowledge in this respect and thus contribute to its fulfilment: facilitating the participation of an official from the Ministry of the Treasury and Public Credit in the International Seminar ‘Towards Better Investment in Children in the Context of the SDGs’, in Mexico, during which General Comment No. 19 was presented to finance and treasury officials from across the region; and supporting the presentation of General Comment No. 19 to children, non-governmental organizations and members of civil society, in alliance with the Nicaragua branch of the Global Movement for Children.

In addition, UNICEF Nicaragua included innovative strategies to promote children’s protection from violence. This year an alliance was formed with: journalists, to ensure they address news about violence involving children and youth with a rights-based focus; and renowned artists, to promote a culture of peace among young people and foster knowledge and promotion of their rights.

**Gender Equality**

The Innovation Camps organized in the Caribbean Coast region generate processes of empowerment, providing spaces where children can express themselves, address and propose solutions to situations such as early pregnancy and commercial sexual exploitation. This year, 283 female adolescents participated in camp activities (56.3 per cent of participants).

With UNICEF support, the Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents has developed a model for the psychosocial rehabilitation of children victims of sexual abuse and/or pregnancy and their families, which includes a specialized unit for sexual abuse and attempted suicide. Of the 404 cases attended by this unit, 97 per cent correspond to girls and adolescent women, 44 per cent (172) of whom became pregnant. Most of the babies resulting from sexual abuse are raised by the adolescent girls and their families. The ‘Guide for Detection of Possible Emotional Effects of Sexual Abuse’ and the ‘Plan for Psychological Care of Children and Adolescents in Situations of Sexual Abuse’ were two outputs achieved.
In line with the National Adolescent Health and Comprehensive Development Strategy and the Ministry of Health-Ministry of Education-Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents interinstitutional plan of action for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy, reflection forums were developed with youth to adapt the care provided to them. With UNICEF technical support, the Ministry of Health is implementing the ‘National Adolescent Pregnancy Care Standard’, and C4D actions were conducted in prioritized municipalities with the participation of 61 students (48 girls and 13 boys), teachers, doctors and nurses.

In 2016, the building and plumbing courses – with an approach based on micro-entrepreneurship and leadership for young people out of school and in situations of social exclusion on the Caribbean Coast – included 27 females (31 per cent). These courses have improved regional governments’ capacities to attend to young people in a situation of greater disadvantage and marginalization using an equity-based approach. The experience has been systematized, particularly revealing its impact on young people’s lives, especially in terms of self-care and improved self-esteem.

Environmental Sustainability

In 2016, UNICEF and its partners contributed to environmental sustainability through the re-use of plastic bottles in the construction of school and health centre hydro-sanitary infrastructure, improving access to school sanitation for 1,828 children. Approximately 8,000 bottles collected from streets and river banks were used, helping improve environmental sanitation. This also allowed the creative and efficient use of waste, which is a low-cost resource that contributes to environmental education, demonstrating – particularly to schoolchildren – that it is possible to reduce garbage and improve hygienic and sanitary conditions in a context of limited resources. This construction technique is one of the topics developed in the building and plumbing courses with a climate change focus aimed at out-of-school adolescents living in situations of poverty and vulnerability.

UNICEF Nicaragua also managed to reduce its electricity consumption by 18 per cent and its drinking-water consumption by 48 per cent due to the efforts and commitment of its management and staff. An 82 per cent fuel reduction was also achieved with the closing of the two Caribbean Coast field offices.

Meanwhile, the re-use and/or recycling of used materials and equipment was promoted. These have been donated to the Los Pipitos Foundation, which provides comprehensive care to children with disabilities, to be used in environmental education workshops or recycled as part of its fund-raising strategy. The office also collects paper for recycling, which is picked up by the Los Pipitos Foundation twice a month.

Effective Leadership

The country management team (CMT) is the main and mandatory committee supporting the Representative in decision-making, facilitating strategic management and monitoring of the annual management plan. The team held nine ordinary meetings and one extraordinary meeting, reviewing and monitoring management indicators and ensuring their achievement. It reviewed the eight opportunities to streamline office management announced by the UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, including the composition of mandatory committees, reducing the number of committees from 11 to 7.

The enterprise risk management and the risk mitigation workplan were updated and implemented with the country management team systematic monitoring. Among the risks classified as ‘high’ were fund fraud and misappropriation, linked mainly to a harmonized
approach to cash transfer (HAÇT)-related activities. As it wasn’t possible to obtain government approval for audits and micro-evaluations, spot-checks and training sessions for implementing partners were strengthened for enhancing government capacities and quality insurance. Irregularities were detected in the handling of resources of one implementing partner and the case was presented to the country management team for decision-making, and the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office and headquarters were informed.

Another high-risk category is the low capture of other resources, which remains a challenge for UNICEF Nicaragua. The total of other resources obtained during the cooperation programme is US$7.38 million, the equivalent of 24 per cent of the country programme document budget ceiling. The political context and new international cooperation management modalities provided UNICEF Nicaragua with the opportunity to review and identify ways of achieving greater efficiency and effectiveness to achieve programme results. This process was led by the CMT, presenting and negotiating financial proposals and a new operating modality to the Government of Nicaragua, resulting in a review and reduction of the office structure, including the closure of the Bilwi and Bluefields zone offices.

The CMT systematically monitored implementation of audit recommendations. As of 31 December, 8 of the 11 recommendations (73 per cent) were closed.

**Financial Resources Management**

As of 31 December 2016, UNICEF Nicaragua had achieved an annual financial implementation of 100 per cent of the total available funds (US$2.55 million), with the following breakdown: regular resources – 100 per cent of US$1.18 million; other resources – 99 per cent of US$0.96 million; and institutional budget – 100 per cent of US$0.41 million. The total other resources funds obtained for the country programme since 2013 is US$7.38 million, equivalent to 24 per cent of the total 2013–2017 country programme document budgetary ceiling.

The balance of outstanding direct cash transfers for more than nine months on 31 December 2016 was reduced to 0. The HACT assurance plan was prepared at the beginning of the year, taking into consideration the political context and existing risk levels, classifying all implementing as high risk, as the Government of Nicaragua hasn’t authorized micro-evaluations and audits. Six of the nine planned spot-checks were conducted (67 per cent), and the failure to complete all of them was due to delays in funds implementation by two implementing partners and authorization from the Government to conduct a spot-check of one implementing partner. A total of 58 per cent of planned programme visits were conducted (out of the 12 planned). The training sessions for implementing partners on HACT-related issues were conducted, including the partners from the Caribbean Coast (two training sessions). The rest of the implementing partners were trained in the last quarter of 2015.

The spot-checks conducted of the Territorial Indigenous Government detected a series of irregularities amounting to US$73,000. The corresponding report was reviewed and discussed with the implementing partner and shared with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Internally, the report was shared with the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office, UNICEF’s Office of Internal Audit and Investigations and the Division of Financial and Administrative Management.

**Fundraising and Donor Relations**

UNICEF Nicaragua has suffered a drastic reduction in funds in recent years due to donors leaving the country as the result of different factors, such as the global economic crisis,
Nicaragua’s classification as a low-middle-income country, and the multiple global emergencies that have demanded donors’ prioritization. To date, the Country Office has managed to raise only 24 per cent of the country programme’s ceiling for planned other resources.

In this context, the office has declared itself a ‘Donor Orphan’ and obtained support from the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office through the allocation of global and regional thematic funds, which has allowed it to maintain its support to the country in strategic cooperation areas. A fund-raising strategy was prepared that seeks to strengthen the relationship with remaining donors (U.S. Fund for UNICEF, GAVI), reinitiate contacts with donors that left (e.g., the UNICEF Spanish National Committee) and initiate different local-level fund mobilization options.

Also, in the context of corporate social responsibility, contacts were initiated with Hansae International and the Cargill Group (food industry) that could lead to leverage of private-sector funds for early childhood programmes.

To monitor the use of funds and avoid unnecessary extensions, the Office has conducted systematic monthly monitoring of the implementation of grant and their expiry dates in programme team and CMT meetings. The delivery of quality reports to donors within the established periods is also monitored and the Virtual Integrated System of Information (VISION) reports are used to follow up on funds.

**Evaluation and Research**

The first half of the year saw the completion of the evaluation of UNICEF two-zone offices on the Caribbean Coast. Measures to ensure its objectivity and impartiality were taken during the preparation phase through: contracting a team of national external consultants, implementing stipulations according to which the management of the process was the responsibility of the monitoring and evaluation specialist, and an evaluation methodology that contemplated the use of various sources of information to allow triangulation of the data. A management response was approved by the country management team in June and it was agreed to consider some of the recommendations when guiding staff working in the autonomous regions. Due to the nature of this evaluation, its results have not been used for evidence-based communication or political advocacy purposes.

In 2016, 1 of the 11 activities initially included in the integrated monitoring and evaluation plan was classified as an evaluation. However, considering the political context and in consultation with the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office, UNICEF Nicaragua decided to cancel it during its preparation phase in April. The objective of this ex-post evaluation was to evaluate the results achieved by the Network of Child and Adolescent Communicators promoted by the non-governmental organization Los Cumiches with UNICEF support.

One of the comments by the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office in its feedback on the integrated monitoring and evaluation plan 2016 was related to the amount invested in evidence-generating activities, stating that the resources earmarked for the planned evaluation could hinder its adequate implementation. In response, the country management team agreed in August to pay greater attention to estimating the cost of evaluations and ensuring that sufficient resources are assigned.
Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

UNICEF Nicaragua has continued reviewing its operational mechanisms to gain efficiency and save costs. This included:

- **Energy savings**: Efforts to continue reducing electricity costs continued in 2016. A comparative analysis of energy costs at the end of 2015 and 2016 shows savings of US$8,282 (18 per cent). The energy-saving campaigns continued promoting mechanisms for turning off light bulbs and electrical equipment when not in use and stressing the use of printers with energy-saving functions. The office continued using low-energy-consumption light bulbs.

- **Security costs**: Security costs were reviewed with UNDP as the office is in the same building and shares those costs. The adjustments made led to a reduction of US$8,091 (27 per cent).

- **Fuel costs**: Closing the zone offices led to annual fuel cost savings of US$9,438 (82 per cent).

- **Drinking water**: The reduction obtained during the year was US$1,192 (48 per cent).

- **Closing the Bilwi and Bluefields offices**: UNICEF’s presence in the Bilwi and Bluefields zone offices was reviewed in 2015 in consultation with the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office in order to optimize available resources and achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in the Country Programme results. The proposal to close both offices was authorized by the Regional Director and this decision was implemented during the first quarter of 2016. The estimated savings amounted to approximately US$110,000 in regular resources, which were invested into programmatic activities in the country’s Northern and Southern Autonomous Regions in the Caribbean Coast through workplans signed with the corresponding authorities.

Supply Management

Following the strategic changes to the country programme, the volume of and funds invested in purchase processes in 2016 continued to show a significant reduction. However, the supply component continued to be taken into consideration in internal processes due to the country’s vulnerability to emergencies caused by natural disasters and the potential effects of climate change. The Office also considers that procurement services activities represent an important contribution to governmental counterparts, so processes of this nature will be reviewed at the beginning of 2017.

During the year, Ministry of Health and UNAN-León signed a memorandum of understanding to continue the implementation of and seek to institutionalize the Congenital Hypothyroidism Screening Programme that the UNAN has been implementing for more than 10 years. The memorandum stipulates that UNAN will continue implementing the laboratory actions related to the screening. The Ministry of Health and UNICEF Nicaragua have a current Annual Workplan that includes activities for accompanying the process agreed between UNAN and the Ministry of Health. Part of the workplan contemplates UNICEF Nicaragua’s administration of the purchase of reagents and laboratory materials in the amount of US$29,810, which will allow UNAN to guarantee the screening achieved and expand it to more Ministry of Health service network facilities.

14
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value of all supply input (good and services): In US$</th>
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<tr>
<td>Programme supplies</td>
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<td>Operational supplies</td>
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<td>Services</td>
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Construction project managed through direct cash transfers:

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>US dollars</th>
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<tr>
<td>Improve access to water and sanitation in schools</td>
<td>15,242.06</td>
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Security for Staff and Premises

UNICEF Nicaragua has been making considerable efforts to enhance its security standards, achieving 95 per cent of the minimum operating security standards requirements. To strengthen the level of minimum operating security standards fulfilment and staff preparedness for emergency situations, in the last quarter of 2016 all staff members received a first-aid workshop and a briefing on telecommunications. Travel missions are registered under the United Nations Department of Safety and Security travel authorization system, including last-minute changes that are registered by the security focal point and his alternate from Managua.

The business continuity plan was updated during the last quarter and it is expected to carry out tests with different scenarios in the first quarter of 2017.

In coordination with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security and SINAPRED, UNICEF Nicaragua was involved in national emergency simulations, strengthening the staff’s capacity to respond to risk situations and implement mitigation measures during emergency scenarios.

As a result of the reduction of UNDP staff, an analysis was conducted to reduce the number of security staff needed and adjustments were made with United Nations Department of Safety and Security clearance.

Part of the staff living outside the perimeter of the capital city is not covered by the UNICEF Nicaragua Ultra High Frequency repeater system. This constraint would hinder counting staff members in the absence of mobile telephone services, so extending coverage to the Masaya Highway sector should be considered, testing the idea using the UNDP or World Food Programme repeater system to contact those colleagues involved.

Human Resources

The staff capacity development plan included a training session on results-based management for the programme team, with the support of The UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office. Other subjects identified as staff needs for alignment with the requirements defined in the Country Programme were the courses on ethics, field security, gender and equity, prevention of harassment, HIV, HACT, and staff preparedness for the transition to and implementation of the Global Shared Services Centre, including MyCase. The staff member designated as the office’s emergencies focal point took the Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies online course and was also trained in 2016 in the
Multisectoral Emergency Response Workshop organized by the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office to enhance country offices’ capacity to prepare and respond to emergencies.

In relation to compliance with the performance evaluation system, 85 per cent of staff concluded the final phase for 2015 before 29 February 2016, and 83 per cent of staff completed the initial phase for 2016 by 31 March. In terms of following up on the results of the Global Staff Survey, the working climate workshop with the participation of all staff members (including the Representative and Deputy Representative, who joined the team during the last half of the year) stands out. This focused on enhancing the office team’s integration and cohesion.

As part of the Office’s commitments to UN Cares, the post-exposure prophylaxis kit was replaced with new items, while new focal points and alternates were named and trained on managing the kits in coordination with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security. Throughout the year, condoms were available to staff in the bathrooms as part of the minimum HIV prevention standards. In coordination with the Resident Coordinator’s Office, UNICEF Nicaragua has planned an inter-agency workshop for the beginning of 2017 to update the staff on HIV care and treatment.

All staff contracts have been funded in accordance with the source of funding authorized by the programme and budget review.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

At the beginning of 2016, UNICEF Nicaragua replaced 95 per cent of the ICT equipment. Nineteen laptops, network printers, teleconference equipment and scanners were purchased. This investment totalled US$50,000, funded through savings made in 2015. This has provided the chance to substantially increase the capacity and functioning of the ICT equipment, which has enabled users to have the required ICT tools in accordance with UNICEF standards. These changes have been positive in terms of carrying out common tasks such as teleconferences, VISION transactions, information searches, analysis of reports and the printing of documents. The investment has also allowed better use of the Windows 8.1 and Office 365 capabilities, as well as platforms such as OneDrive for Business, which has been used to share documents and update reports such as the Country Office Annual Reports, Results Assessment Modules and other programmatic strategies.

In 2016, the office promoted migration from the network units to a SharePoint site with the purpose of enhancing capacities to accelerate document design, improve the flow of information and expand the availability of and access to documents. The SharePoint framework project was approved by the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office and UNICEF Nicaragua is in the process of implementing it. The TeamSite pilot is expected to be launched in the beginning of 2017.

The social networks are directly run by the communications area and all the ICT security measures have been implemented. The office’s presence in the social networks is notable, with UNICEF being the country’s lead United Nations agency in this respect, having more than 15,000 followers committed to children’s rights, expressing their appreciation through ‘likes’ and sharing the contents posted. The account contents are frequently updated.
ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1: By 2017, children, adolescents and pregnant women in 24 prioritized municipalities with greater disparities have access to integrated health, nutrition, education, and child protection services for integrated ECD.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Ministry of Health has identified the reduction of neonatal mortality as a priority, and UNICEF has contributed to enhancing the capacities of the health teams in hospitals and primary health-care units to improve the quality of care through the production of clinical guides and improvement plans, based on the analysis of determinants. The work has focused on removing bottlenecks to improve the quality of care and behaviours related to child birth and caring for babies through the ‘Kangaroo Family’ strategy, particularly in more remote areas with poorer populations. The successes of this experience were shared during the world ‘Kangaroo Mother’ congress in Italy in November 2016. Based on the application of the Monitoring of Results for Equity System, data were analysed in a disaggregated manner per health unit, prioritizing solutions adjusted to the needs of each geographic area.

UNICEF Nicaragua supported the institutionalization of the Mother- and Child-Friendly Units Initiative. In alliance with other partners and under Ministry of Health leadership, the internal and external evaluation guides for health centres and posts were adapted; and a teaching programme was produced for the training of external evaluators for the initiative and of paediatricians, general practitioners and nurses from the country’s 19 local comprehensive health-care systems (SILAIS). Each SILAIS has human resources that will be responsible for guaranteeing the initiative’s sustainability and certifying or re-certifying all of the Ministry of Health’s health units, including the social security clinics. In addition, the dialogue with the private sector has been expanded in such a way as to ensure the installation of child-friendly workspaces, while UNICEF Nicaragua has initiated a dialogue with academia (the Medicine Faculty of UNAN-León) to promote the child-friendly universities initiative.

As a contribution to the implementation of the Love for the Smallest Ones Programme (PAMOR) and under the leadership of Ministry of Health, UNICEF has provided technical and financial support for updating, validating and training health personnel on the national norms and quality control standards for Growth and Development Monitoring and Promotion among children under the age of 6; and for the identification of risk or warning signs of inadequate development for the timely referral of disabilities to the early stimulation areas in 80 (52 per cent) of the country’s municipalities. A process of linkage among the lead bodies (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents) has also been implemented locally to ensure better coordination and complementarity among the school, family and community counselling services, which is being demonstrated in the production of common regional and school plans of action.

The advocacy and dialogue that UNICEF maintained with the Ministry of Health and UNAN-León authorities allowed the prevention of neonatal hypothyroidism and its adverse effects on ECD to be taken up as a priority issue. In this respect, a plan of action was implemented that included the production of clinical guides, diagnostic flowcharts, the provision of supplies and promotion actions to guarantee universal access to screening, care and the timely referral of detected cases.

To guarantee birth registration, the Ministry of Health’s network of maternal houses (171) has ensured that 100 per cent of children have birth certificates when discharged. UNICEF is
supporting the Ministry of Health to enhance the linked work between the Bluefields and Bilwi mayor’s offices and the Supreme Electoral Council to create a single online birth registration system operating from the regional hospital birth registration desks to eliminate access barriers and strengthen intersectoral coordination.

The work alliance with the health commission of SINAPRED has been successful, allowing UNICEF to promote the sharing of best practices, enhancement of knowledge and intersectoral linkage for an effective and timely response to disaster situations. Employing the matrix of the regional UNICEF office’s Integrated Nutrition Resilience Group, the commission members and Ministry of Health technicians have identified bottlenecks and prepared a plan of action to reinforce coordinated work among all the health system’s levels and SINAPRED.

UNICEF has contributed on two fronts through the government bodies responsible for the preschool education subsystem: in promoting the active participation of parents in the early stimulation and education of their children; and in training teachers on subjects related to early childhood and educational methodologies suitable for the preschool education level. UNICEF has advocated for the development of teaching capacities to provide better preschool education in the country’s Caribbean Coast region, ensuring financial and technical resources for that end.

UNICEF Nicaragua also supported the Ministry of Health in producing and implementing a plan of action for the elimination of HIV mother-to-child transmission of HIV, using the ‘HIV PMTCT Cascade’ as a reference. A total of 88 pregnant women were captured so far, 17 per cent of them (22) adolescents.

**Challenges:** Updating the Breastfeeding Code; developing inter-agency actions aimed at nutritional resilience in emergencies; interinstitutional planning and monitoring in the framework of PAMOR; strengthening actions in the 1,000-day period that ensure the reduction of neonatal mortality; contributing to the National Plan for the eradication of mother-to-child transmission of HIV; and promoting intersectoral coordination for birth registration.

**OUTPUT 1:** By 2017, families with children from 0 to 5 years old have acquired skills to support comprehensive early childhood development of their children and utilization of relevant ECD services (health, nutrition, HIV and AIDS, birth registration and preschool education).

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

With UNICEF technical and financial support, the Ministry of Health continued developing actions aimed at families improving their capacities to stimulate their children’s comprehensive development with broad community participation. Meanwhile, UNICEF Nicaragua continued promoting the interinstitutional coordination of actions with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents in the framework of PAMOR.

To help improve access to and quality of integrated health services for children under 5, UNICEF continued promoting the 13 Mother- and Child-Friendly Units Initiative standards. As a result, exclusive breastfeeding up to six months has shown a sustained upward tendency. With technical support from UNICEF Nicaragua, 24 breastfeeding committees made up of 1,751 health workers from hospitals and health centres were trained in the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and adequate feeding practices for children aged 6–59 months. To promote community counselling on suitable practices and breastfeeding support,
152 community support groups were established made up of 857 leaders from Bilwi, Las Minas, Madriz and Nueva Segovia. To date, 118 health units from the SILAIS of Bilwi, Las Minas, Nueva Segovia and the Southern Caribbean Atlantic Autonomous Region have been assessed.

In line with the Family and Community Health Strategy, C4D actions have been developed by UNICEF Nicaragua in 11 (46 per cent) of the prioritized municipalities in the Chontales, Nueva Segovia and Madriz SILAIS. In this context, health workers produced community assessments and communication plans for the reduction of neonatal mortality, the promotion of breastfeeding, suitable feeding practices for pregnant women, and the prevention of pregnancy among adolescents. In the Chontales and Nueva Segovia SILAIS, the plans were developed in selected communities at the family level. Meanwhile, the transmission of SMS text messages to 450 pregnant women and 220 partners and family members has continued through the Toy Contigo (I’m with you) initiative in the municipality of Bluefields.

UNICEF Nicaragua also supported the Ministry of Health in producing and implementing a plan of action for the elimination of mother-to-child HIV transmission of HIV, using the ‘HIV PMTCT Cascade’ as a reference. So far, 88 pregnant women have been identified, 17 per cent of them (22) adolescents. The mother-to-child HIV transmission rate was 3.5 per cent as of 2015.

UNICEF Nicaragua helped enhance capacities among the institutions responsible for civil registration of children in the Caribbean Coast region. As a result, the identification and removal of barriers to timely registration, the definition of rapid registration mechanisms, effective coordination among authorities linked to registration actions and the training of municipal civil registration staff have allowed 4,137 children in 23 communities of El Tortuguero to be registered in the civil registry through mobile registration. Meanwhile, in coordination with key actors and with technical and financial support from UNICEF, the municipality of Bilwi (Northern Caribbean Autonomous Region) and its mayor’s office registered 709 children under the age of 7 and issued 399 birth certificates free of charge.

Nationally, the country’s 153 municipal civil registry offices and 22 auxiliary registry offices have a registrar’s manual and step-by-step guide to registration that includes the current laws covering registry matters (Family Code, Civil Code, Civil Procedures Code and international instruments).

OUTPUT 2: By 2017, municipal, regional and national cross-sectorial teams of PAMOR have articulated capacity for situation analysis, planning and results monitoring of ECD.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In the framework of the PAMOR and with UNICEF support, the Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents promoted the development of family capacities related to child-rearing and positive masculinity for the prevention of violence, abuse and negligence, with an emphasis on parents and community leaders at the national level. PAMOR’s lead institutions in the Caribbean Coast have started a process of coming together and discussing school, family and community counselling plans. Gaps have been identified and an intersectoral plan of action is being put together, led by the Ministry of Education, which will be applied in the school counselling plans in each school in the region.
With the Office’s support, the Ministry of Health developed actions to improve the quality of care for children under the age of 5. The Growth and Development Monitoring and Promotion standard was updated and 40 health workers participated in validation and training. The sustained improvement in children’s access to Growth and Development Monitoring and Promotion was facilitated by a process of re-sectoring the municipalities, as a
result of which the family and community health strategy personnel made house-to-house visits to enhance early stimulation and provide counselling on care with tenderness for children aged 0–59 months. These visits involved 7,579 families and have a positive masculinity focus to reduce violence. In 19 prioritized communities of the north coast of Puerto Cabezas, this has been complemented with counselling actions from the Community Health and Nutrition Programme with the participation of 137 community leaders. The home visits in the most remote communities improved the Growth and Development Monitoring and Promotion monitoring coverage of 1- to 4-year-olds from 52 per cent in 2014 to 56 per cent in 2016. They also allowed Growth and Development Monitoring and Promotion to be linked with the activities of the Expanded Programme on Immunization, reducing missed opportunities for a 3.3 per cent increase in the coverage of the pentavalent vaccine in the country's 36 municipalities with the lowest coverage. UNICEF Nicaragua provided technical support to produce community materials that allow leaders to give counselling on the importance of vaccines and to identify children who have not been vaccinated. In addition, capacities were developed for the triangulated analysis of information, allowing 99.93 per cent data precision comparing Penta3 with Pneumo3. UNICEF Nicaragua provided technical support to produce community materials that allow leaders to give counselling on the importance of vaccines and to identify children who have not been vaccinated. In addition, capacities were developed for the triangulated analysis of information, allowing 99.93 per cent data precision comparing Penta3 with Pneumo3.

UNICEF Nicaragua provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents to improve care for children with disabilities through the training of 150 officials. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents had coordinated actions to equipping 80 early stimulation rooms in prioritized municipalities.

In coordination with the Southern Caribbean Autonomous Regional Government and the Laguna de Perlas health team, UNICEF Nicaragua is implementing the 'TeleSalud' pilot, which focuses on enhancing the capacities of 24 community leaders from an equal number of communities to identify risk factors for complications among pregnant women and children. The University of Villanova, BICU and the University of the Autonomous Region of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast are participating through an interinstitutional alliance model. Using the RapiPro platform, the trained community leaders and a network of 71 volunteer community health workers have initiated a data transmission process from the health posts of El pedregal, Haulover, Orinoco and Tasbapounie to the Laguna de Perlas Health Centre.

OUTCOME 2: By 2017, girls, boys and adolescents in the most disadvantaged conditions, mainly indigenous and Afro-descendant populations, have enrolled and completed primary education in a timely manner.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
With the aim of helping create better conditions for quality and inclusive education to reach the most disadvantaged groups, efforts have been made around four programmatic areas: 1) the organized participation of the community to improve the education service; 2) development of teachers' technical capacities to improve their performance in the classroom; 3) strengthening regional structures responsible for education in the Caribbean Coast; and 4) improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene in schools. Efforts have concentrated on a geographical area where access and quality of education indicators are the lowest in the country, including 10 municipalities in the Caribbean Coast. To promote community participation to enrich the education processes, national strategies for the promotion and organization of school committees and student structures have been reviewed for their adaptation to the multicultural and multi-ethnic context of the Caribbean Coast. The Education Secretariats of the North and South Caribbean Coast regional governments have adapted existing guidelines to promote organizational structures that respond to the particularities of the Caribbean region. Opportunities for promoting parent participation in school life have also been strengthened, particularly in the preschool.
education subsystem. Parents are consulted and trained on new and improved forms of relating to their children in order to build a culture of peace and an enabling environment for ECD. In 9 of the 15 schools attended by the school water, sanitation and hygiene programme, school councils were organized and trained. The purpose of these councils is to support each school’s management in seeking solutions to problems related to the operation and maintenance of the school infrastructure under the principle of shared responsibility.

To improve the service provided in the area of education and contribute to school retention and greater coverage with quality, teachers have been trained on: the use of preschool-level education programmes; methodologies for the development of parental skills; how to support children in the transition from preschool to first grade and from sixth grade to secondary school; methodological strategies for working with multi-grade groups; the Open Class methodology that makes use of local human resources for pedagogical improvement; how to provide psychosocial support to victims of abuse and the route for comprehensive care to victims; and the new education community counselling strategies, which is a comprehensive educational programme of the Ministry of Education to foster a harmonious school environment. The teacher training workshops have been developed nationally, with an emphasis on the Caribbean Coast.

With respect to enhancing the regional education structures, a training process has been developed for the technical teams to improve their competencies to play their roles of supporting education management. A process has been designed that uses a ‘learning-by-doing’ methodology through which technicians and school principals from centres of selected educational nucleus (geographical units comprising 6–10 schools) are implementing strategies for more effective follow-up of educational management.

The lack of access to water and sanitary facilities suitable for children and adolescents attending schools is one of the factors that create unfavourable conditions for a quality education. Coordination has been enhanced among the Regional Education Secretariats, the Regional Water and Sanitation Units and Ministry of Education, contributing to the achievement of school improvements in this area. In 2016, 15 schools from 4 prioritized municipalities in the Caribbean Coast improved access to water and sanitation, providing 2,790 students (1,420 girls and 1,370 boys) with appropriate basic hygiene and sanitation conditions. This is an important contribution to improving the quality of education and reducing the school drop-out rate.

OUTPUT 1: By 2017, girls, boys, adolescents and their families have acquired competencies to participate in the management of inclusive quality education which includes access to water, sanitation and hygiene with focus on adaptation to climate change.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF helped enhance the organized, active and proactive participation of the school community in school affairs, thus improving the quality of education. Specifically, support was provided for the review of the national educational strategies related to the school councils and student governments in the Caribbean Coast. A dialogue process was generated among the different actors, which resulted in having guidelines adapted to the region for setting up school councils, and a regional plan for the promotion of the Federation of Secondary Students.

The school councils promote the organized participation of parents, students and teachers who form a work team that takes on tasks to improve education. The Federation of Secondary Students promotes complementary actions such as study circles, a group of students who support other students to improve their school performance, a school reinforcement movement and additional extracurricular actions related to art, culture and
environmental protection, all of which help students develop social skills, improve coexistence and establish a culture of peace.

In addition, 2,790 students (1,420 girls and 1,370 boys) attending 15 schools (1 in Bilwi, 8 in Bluefields, 3 in Laguna de Perlas and 3 in Desembocadura) gained access to water supply and sanitation services and hand-washing facilities, through processes led by an equity- and inclusion-based approach. The infrastructure also served 159 teachers (123 women and 36 men) working in these schools. Also, 69 Ministry of Education and SRE officials – most of them women – have benefited from the construction of hydro-sanitary installations and the rehabilitation of existing facilities in their workplace.

UNICEF also supported the making and the publication of a catalogue of technological options for water, sanitation and hygiene in schools, developed by the Southern Caribbean Autonomous Regional Government’s Regional Water and Sanitation Directorate. The catalogue gathers together water supply and sanitation technologies appropriate to the context of the Caribbean Coast. These technologies have been developed in the two autonomous regions by different implementing partners as demonstration projects. The catalogue is a tool intended to technicians and decision makers at the institutional and nongovernment levels, to help them consider investments in school hydro-sanitary infrastructure that are appropriate, sustainable and help generate a healthy environment that contributes to reduce school drop-out, particularly among girls, to reduce the incidence of illnesses and to increase children’s learning capacity, thus allowing them to exercise their right to a quality and inclusive education.

OUTPUT 2: By 2017, teachers in prioritized municipalities have increased their teaching capacity for quality primary education which is relevant to cultural contexts, with focus on cross-sectoral curriculum.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
To contribute to the quality of education, UNICEF has supported the review of pedagogical methodologies and their adaptation to the local context. A review of experimentation-based methodologies (problem resolution, inquiry-based science teaching and investigation-action) is currently under way to define what is most applicable in the Caribbean Coast’s context of limited resources, multiculturalism and multi-languages. A proposal resulting from the revision of the above-mentioned methodologies has now been prepared.

There is also a proposal to help improve teaching at the preschool education level, which stresses experimentation-based teaching in the Caribbean regions, promoting the use of local materials. Likewise, a proposal for the inclusion of contents related to new masculinities in the preschool curricula has been drafted.

Support has been provided for the dissemination of the open class methodology for continuous training of primary school teachers. During the first phase, 60 teachers were trained. The plan is for the methodology to be implemented on a large scale in the Caribbean region. The methodology takes advantage of the existing capacities of experienced teachers. UNICEF is cooperating with the Japan International Cooperation Agency in this effort.

UNICEF has advocated for the dissemination of the new strategy of the Education Community Counselling Unit within the Ministry of Education in the communities of the Caribbean Coast. To this end, 4,000 teachers from the South and North Caribbean Coast regions have been trained. The strategy aims to have at least 250,000 people nationwide, actively participating in the prevention of violence and any kind of abuse in schools and communities.
To reduce the rate of uncertified teachers in primary education, the teacher’s professionalization plans of the teaching training schools in the Caribbean Coast have been reviewed and there are now new updated versions of the plans. The plans consider training teachers to ensure promotion of bilingual intercultural education in the most remote communities. The new plans emphasize the support that in-service teachers should receive during their time in the classroom, as part of the ongoing quality training they should be offered.

Some 350 members of the school sanitation committees and the operating and maintenance commissions organized in nine schools of the Southern Caribbean Atlantic Autonomous Region were trained on hygiene education with a life skills approach. A total of 6,274 participants (3,244 women and 3,030 men) were reached in the different activities organized in the region around the celebration of Global Handwashing Day.

A guide to school activities for the control and elimination of the mosquito *Aedes aegypti* was produced and validated by teachers from nine schools in Bluefields. This represents a contribution of school to the efforts to get rid of mosquito breeding sites and to help reduce cases of illnesses transmitted by this insect. The guide contains activities to be implemented in the three school levels (preschool, primary and secondary).

In addition, 121 Ministry of Education officials (104 municipal and 17 departmental liaison technicians) strengthened their capacities on disaster risk management by participating in a workshop on school safety.

**OUTPUT 3:** By 2017, the Ministry of Education and the Regional Secretaries of Education in both Caribbean Coasts have acquired capacities for curriculum development, decentralized planning, and real time monitoring of educational management for equity.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The Education Secretariats of the North and South Caribbean Coast and the regional Ministry of Education offices worked on a diagnosis of training needs for their personnel, highlighting gaps encountered for them to comply with their responsibilities to provide follow-up and monitoring of the teaching and administration work in schools. A study of the school situation in four educational nuclei (two urban and two rural) is currently being undertaken. The study provided information on the gaps in the education service offered in the region. Having the preliminary results of technical needs and the school situation study, a capacity-building process was initiated for technical advisers and school principals. Training needs that were addressed are: skills to improve assistance to teachers in their classroom work; follow-up to the administrative work of school principals; and monitoring of the level of involvement of the school community in school processes.

With the relevant regional authorities (the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Directorate in the South Caribbean and the Education Secretariat in the North Caribbean), the system for the real-time monitoring of education management is being implemented at a pilot phase. This level has revealed the initiative’s relevance, pertinence and potential as a tool for monitoring education matters, providing key information about different functions of education management, from pedagogical planning to evaluation of academic results in any part of the region, with the help of a telephone connection. The initiative has been widely mastered by water, sanitation and hygiene technicians and a training process is currently under way for the tool’s adoption by technical advisers from the Ministry of Education and the Regional Education Secretariat. It is expected that real-time monitoring of education management will
become a reality at the regional level in 2017.

Progress have been made to make the system for real-time monitoring of education management official in both the Northern Caribbean Autonomous Region and the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region. Although at different levels, both governments have taken on the responsibility for managing the system whose software will allow rapid, real-time monitoring of certain school management indicators, even in the most remote schools as long as they have access to a mobile telephone network. The system’s software has been installed in both governments’ ICT units, while 18 technicians from the Regional Education Secretariats’ from the Statistical department and Ministry of Education pedagogical advisers have been trained on the system’s operating manual. A technical committee has been organized that consists of the Education Secretariat, Planning Secretariat, Ministry of Education and the Statistics unit, to provide support in its implementation in 2017.

The updating of the school water, sanitation and hygiene inventory in four municipalities (Bluefields, Desembocadura, El Tortuguero and Laguna de Perlas) was completed. This tool will help the regional authorities advocate with the municipalities for investment in schools with the greatest deficiencies.

OUTCOME 3: By 2017, children and adolescents in conditions of greater exclusion in 24 prioritized municipalities have capacities and opportunities for their development, and have equitable access to services for the prevention and response to violence in its various manifestations.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
With technical and financial support from UNICEF, the interinstitutional coordination and technical capacities of the Ministry of the Family, Children and Adolescents, Ministry of Education, the judicial branch and the National Police were strengthened to prevent violence against children, through the following initiatives.

The Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents and the Ministry of Education have jointly implemented an early warning system to detect situations of school bullying, addiction, adolescent pregnancy, family conflict, sexual abuse and self-aggression. This system is a secondary prevention strategy that aims to detect cases in schools, providing accompaniment and care in coordination with the Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents specialists. The Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents has also designed a psychosocial rehabilitation model for child victims of sexual abuse and adolescent pregnancy using a ‘learning-by-doing’ methodology. This model will be implemented nationally and contribute to the design of a national policy for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy.

The judicial branch enhanced the capacities of 217 National Police officers (43 per cent women, 57 per cent men) from different geographic areas (Bilwi, Bluefields, Matagalpa, Sahsa and Waspam and at the central level in Managua) in the area of juvenile penal justice for the correct application of the Third Book of the Legal Code for Children and Adolescents. This Book refers to the presumption of minor status; the time, form and treatment during detention; and coordination mechanisms among the police, the Public Prosecutor’s Office and courts before and after the application of measures.

National- and regional-level institutions have strengthened their technical capacities to update evidence-based policies and formulate and monitor public budgets for the restitution of rights of adolescents living in conditions of violence and exclusion, with a results-based
management focus. In this context, the South Caribbean Coast’s Secretariat for Women, Children and Adolescents has an operating plan to guide its interventions in a systematized and rigorous way, while its planning secretariat has identified priority indicators for following up. In addition, the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government (Southern Caribbean Autonomous Regional Government) has advanced with implementing its Information and Knowledge Management System through the definition of child indicators prioritized for monitoring. This will allow the Southern Caribbean Autonomous Regional Government to make evidence-based decisions on which services should be increased, which capacities and opportunities need to be developed for children and youth of the South Caribbean Coast, and which places are priorities. Meanwhile, contact has been re-established with the Ministry of the Treasury and Public Credit for joint work on estimating investment in children in the public budget.

Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents has been strengthened to ensure the better use of information, data and indicator systems through the modernization of its communication networks. In Bluefields, the System for the Surveillance of Injuries to Children Caused by Violence is being implemented.

The participation and empowerment of adolescents in a situation of exclusion and risk and their families was also enhanced. A total of 991 adolescents in vulnerable conditions from different areas of the country (emphasizing the North and South Caribbean Coast) have developed competencies for social relations (gender, interculturality, intergenerationality) that have given them skills to overcome extreme poverty and different expressions of violence. The following have been promoted: the analysis of gender social norms, participation in the design of solutions to problems in their communities, the production of their life plans, and entrepreneurship for social inclusion.

BICU’s Innovation Laboratory developed different activities that enabled children in a situation of vulnerability and exclusion to increase their capacities. In 2016, 78 children, including adolescents with disabilities, were trained on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, expanding their knowledge of their rights, which is an essential element in turning them into defenders of their rights who demand their fulfilment. In addition, the innovation camps were important spaces for addressing community problems through exchanges of ideas among different actors: children, adolescents, adults, community leaders, teachers, etc. Three innovation camps were held in geographically and culturally isolated communities. These events gave about 60 children from those communities the chance to talk about their problems and the way in which they want to resolve them, using innovative methodologies such as social mapping and the innovation café. The camps generated spaces in which children acquired capacities to reflect on their problems and tools to propose solutions. Generating these kinds of spaces for expression contributed to their process of empowerment.

**OUTPUT 1:** By 2017, adolescents in conditions of greater exclusion have developed competencies for social relations (gender, intercultural, intergenerational) to overcome poverty and violence in its various manifestations.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF helped increase adolescent participation in the design of responses to social problems affecting their communities. Thanks to activities of BICU’s Innovation Laboratory, 60 adolescents and young people aged 10–20 have participated in social innovation camps, during which they conducted assessments of the main problems in their communities and suggested innovative alternative ways of resolving them. Furthermore, in Bluefields, 362 have been trained on twenty-first-century skills, such as monitoring and evaluation, software
programming, creating professional curriculum vitae and preparing for job interviews, social entrepreneurship, and forming alliances; while 78 participated in workshops on knowledge of the Convention of the Rights of the Child in which other young people taught them the principles of the Convention and the importance of knowing about their rights.

In addition, 404 child survivors of sexual abuse (and their families) received specialized protection from the Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents, with technical and financial support from UNICEF. Girls and female adolescents account for 392 (97 per cent) of these children, with 172 (44 per cent) pregnant from sexual abuse. This care model has allowed the children to receive psychosocial rehabilitation, abandon self-aggressive behaviours, and have tools to respond to the trauma caused by the abuse and rebuild their life plans. Mothers and fathers have enhanced abilities for communication and raising children with love; and know the protection and risk factors for the prevention of sexual abuse.

With UNICEF support, the judicial branch has continued the strategy of strengthening the skills of adolescents in conflict with the law to be agents of change in their community. For the strategy’s sustainability and effectiveness, the judicial branch involved the families in their children’s educational processes. The Local Offices for the Follow-Up of Penal Sanctions for Adolescents (OEVSPAs) therefore gave training on peaceful conflict resolution methods and new masculinities to 100 per cent of the 156 mothers and fathers (134 mothers and 22 fathers) of adolescents in conflict with the law in Bilwi, Bluefields and Matagalpa. The experience-based methodology allowed analysis of the families’ gender roles and child-rearing patterns and how these put adolescents at risk of committing or falling victim to violence.

UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents and the Ministry of Education in implementing a national-level early warning and referral system for the timely detection and referral of situations of school bullying, addiction, adolescent pregnancy, family conflict, sexual abuse and self-aggression. Internally, the Ministry of Education has developed action protocols for cases of carrying arms, addiction, violence and school bullying. These are being reviewed and will come into effect in 2017.

In addition, UNICEF has contributed to adolescents in situations of exclusion and risk entering the labour market as a strategy for the restitution of their rights. A total of 87 adolescents (60 boys and 27 girls) from five municipalities of the Southern Caribbean Atlantic Autonomous Region and one from the Northern Caribbean Autonomous Region were trained in building and plumbing with a climate change focus through the water and sanitation programme component. The course has been certified by the National Technological Institute. Most of these adolescents established their own microbusinesses or obtained work in local private companies or public institutions

OUTPUT 2: By 2017, competent authorities (Ministry of Family, National Police, Public Attorney Office, judicial branch) have strengthened their capabilities for prevention of violence, in its various manifestations, against children and adolescents.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
With technical and financial support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents and the Ministry of Education designed and nationally implemented an early warning system for the detection of school bullying, addictions, adolescent pregnancy, family conflict, sexual abuse and self-aggression. This system is a secondary prevention strategy whose objective is the detection of cases in schools and the provision of accompaniment and care through the Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents specialists and education community and family counsellors. In this respect, the central level is producing work tools
such as the Early Warning Training Booklet (containing the warning signals for each situation), the Early Warning and Referral Guide (containing the methodological steps once the cases have been detected), and the Referral and Counter-referral Form (referral tool). A total of 18 early warning workshops were held, covering the 17 departmental capitals and 41 municipalities, with the participation of 387 counsellors (189 from the educational communities and 198 family ones). The replication in the remaining municipalities is currently under way and it is expected to achieve complete coverage in 2017.

To provide response to one of the most serious situations – sexual abuse – the Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents established the Specialized Sexual Abuse Unit. In 2016, UNICEF started providing technical and financial support for the development of a psychosocial rehabilitation model for child victims of sexual abuse and adolescent pregnancy. Through a ‘learning-by-doing’ methodology, the Specialized Sexual Abuse Unit team (8 psychologists attending more than 400 cases throughout the national territory) created the following work tools based on their experiences: the Guide for Detection of Possible Emotional Effects among Children and Adolescents in Difficult Situations like Sexual Abuse; the Plan for Individual Psychological Care for Three Age Groups – 0–6 years, 7–12 and 13–18; and a Group Care Guide for Children and Adolescents and their Families. The Specialized Sexual Abuse Unit team has strengthened its capacities for the suitable diagnosis of psychological or psychiatric traumas caused by sexual abuse; case analysis; play-based therapies for attending to children under the age of 6; and cognitive therapy for attending to children aged 7–18. This model will serve as an input for producing a National Policy and Strategy for the Prevention and Care of Adolescent Pregnancy.

With UNICEF support, the judicial branch has enhanced the capacities of 217 officers (43 per cent women, 57 per cent men) from the National Police and the Penitentiary System in Bilwi, Bluefields, Matagalpa, Sahsa and Waspam and the central level (Managua) for the correct application of the measures established in the Third Book of the Legal Code for Children and Adolescents. This Book refers to the presumption of minor status; the time, form and treatment during detention; and the coordination mechanisms among the police, Public Prosecutor’s Office and the courts before and after the application of the measures. These workshops were given by the Local Follow-Up Offices and the juvenile judges.

OUTPUT 3: By 2017, national and regional authorities have developed capacities to updating policies based on evidence, formulation and monitoring public budgets for the restitution of the rights of adolescents living in conditions of violence and major social exclusion, with focus on results-based management.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
At the sub-national level, the Southern Caribbean Autonomous Regional Government’s Regional Secretariat for Women, Children and Adolescents produced an operating plan for implementing the Strategic Regional Child and Adolescent Policy. This means that officials from the South Caribbean Coast’s Secretariat for Women, Children and Adolescents will have a manual for planning, implementing, evaluating and monitoring its public policies. It should be stressed that the Strategic Regional Child and Adolescent Policy particularly emphasizes initiatives raising awareness on violence prevention, birth registration, and child recreation and socialization.

The Southern Caribbean Autonomous Regional Government advanced by developing the Information and Knowledge Management System, a platform for presenting the information on children in the region. This will provide publicly accessible information for society’s knowledge and empowerment, as well as administrative management information exclusively accessed by the government, which will improve results-based management. In
In this context, the Planning Secretariat identified a series of priority indicators for following up on the situation of children in the South Caribbean Coast and designing evidence-based public policies. To this end, officials from the regional government and municipal and territorial governments are being trained through a specialization course on knowledge management for human development.

With technical and financial support from UNICEF and advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States, the Southern Caribbean Autonomous Regional Government Health Secretariat started piloting the System for Surveillance of Injuries to Children Caused by Violence in Bluefields. This involved the establishment of an interinstitutional alliance among the main institutions working on violence, including the Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents, the Ministry of Health, the National Police, the Mayor’s Office, the Family Courts, the Women’s Secretariat and the Public Ministry. Officials from these institutions have jointly produced a manual for the alliance’s functioning and received training on violence prevention and managing the Epi Info system. The surveillance system is expected to start generating information in 2017.

At the central level, contact has been re-established with Nicaragua’s Ministry of the Treasury and Public Credit for joint work on public budgets for children. An Ministry of the Treasury and Public Credit official participated in the International Seminar ‘Towards Better Investment for Children in the Framework of the Sustainable Development Objectives’, held in Mexico City in October. Based on this, conversations have initiated to train ministry staff on defining classifiers to identify and quantify spending on children in the national budget. With technical and financial support from UNICEF, Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents has enhanced its capacities for the analysis and use of information for timely decision making on situations involving children through improved interconnectivity and data transmission. This has involved modernizing the internal LAN WAN networks of 100% of its departmental offices and Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents’ central-level offices, allowing the automation of the following data collection systems: the Information System of the Government of National Reconciliation and Unity for management and performance data; the Child Support System; and the Single Protagonist Registration System. To ensure sustainability, the Ministry of Family, Children and Adolescents is installing fibre optics and will receive technical support from UNICEF to build its technical staff’s capacities on data collection, analysis and use.
Other publications

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<td>Civil registration guide</td>
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<td>New Masculinities: New views, new realities booklet</td>
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Lessons learned

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