

Nicaragua

Executive summary

According to Living Standards Measurement Surveys, the population in Nicaragua under the general poverty line dropped from 42.5 per cent to 24.9 per cent between 2009 and 2016, while extreme poverty fell from 14.6 per cent to 6.9 per cent in the same period. The infant mortality rate dropped by about 30 per cent over the past 25 years to 16.8 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016.

Preschool coverage rose from 58.4 per cent in 2013 to 65.1 per cent in 2016 and secondary school coverage from 71.4 to 76.5 per cent. In relation to protecting children from violence and preventing it from happening, the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children highlights having provided attention to 103,304 at-risk, working and street children during 2013–2016 nationally. However, violence-related challenges continue: 82 per cent of the victims of violence and sexual abuse are girls, according to the Legal Medicine Institute.

Main achievements

1. UNICEF Nicaragua contributed to placing the prevention of violence and sexual abuse against children on the public and social agenda. The prevention of sexual violence against children and care for victims has been a priority for UNICEF Nicaragua, in line with the national Family Harmony strategy. In this context: (a) the 'Prevention of sexual abuse starts at home' social and behavioural change strategy was launched, raising people's awareness and enhancing the attention and response to situations of violence; (b) exercising of children's right to justice was strengthened and evidence was generated on violence and sexual abuse, in collaboration with the Supreme Court of Justice and the Legal Medicine Institute; (c) support was provided for the creation and strengthening of the care model for victims of sexual violence and pregnant adolescents, allowing care to be provided to 586 girls and female adolescents in collaboration with the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children; and (d) the Early Warning and Counselling Strategy was strengthened as the main tool for preventing and detecting violence in schools and families.

2. UNICEF Nicaragua helped improve coverage and quality of education in line with the 2017–2021 National Education Plan: (a) institutional and teacher capacities were strengthened in areas of school leadership; preschool programme implementation; first grade reading and writing, and multi-grade, primary and secondary education methods to improve education services in rural communities; and the child development evaluation system; (b) enhancement of the school counselling strategy promoting involvement of parents and students in the promotion of safer school and community environments in the framework of the national violence prevention; (c) facilitating international and local experiences in areas of psychosocial support and health in schools through South-South cooperation technical support; and (d) training the educational community for emergency situations, including school safety plans and the provision of water, sanitation, and personal and school hygiene.

3) UNICEF Nicaragua contributed to reduce infant mortality rates between 7 per cent and 9

percent in prioritized municipalities with the highest rates, through: (a) improving coverages and quality of early childhood care through integrated work between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children, with broad community participation; (b) development of institutional policies and technical norms and guides; (c) enhancement of the competencies of health professionals and Child Development Centre personnel; (d) communication for development (C4D) integrated into the Ministry of Health's promotion plans; (e) development of the Community Information System; (f) local workplans for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis; and (g) advocacy and integrated approach to disabilities within Zika response strategies.

Main limitations

1. Not having updated official information has been a limitation for the processes of programming and monitoring advances around child rights. For example, the latest Demographic and Health Survey, which contains information on health, nutrition, infant mortality, adolescent fertility, HIV and violence, was conducted in 2011–2012 and the last Population and Housing Census was conducted in 2005. The difficulty related to administrative records lies in the lack of accessible portals and tools for the whole population to consult.
2. UNICEF's broad mandate for working with civil society on promoting children's rights has been limited to: (a) the Global Movement for Children, the media, journalists and artists on preventing violence and (b) private business, civil society organizations and academia on safe Internet use.

Main alliances

- 1 The alliance with the Supreme Court of Justice/Legal Medicine Institute allowed the Country Office to have access to and position national data on medical-legal opinions that reveal the reality facing children in the country. This partnership will also allow more in-depth studies on violence against children in 2018.
2. The collaboration with the Roundtable on Safe Internet Use, coordinated by the Nicaraguan Council of Science and Technology, and made up of civil society organizations, private business, academia, the National Police, Supreme Court of Justice, Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children and Ministry of Education, allowed for strengthening of the coordinated approach to this issue in Nicaragua.
3. Alliance among the Institute of Nutrition for Central America and Panama/PanAmerican Health Organization, UNICEF and the Inter-American Development Bank on nutrition-related issues.

Equity in practice

The Cooperation Programme 2013–2018 aims to remove the barriers that determine high levels of vulnerability and exclusion among children, particularly those in the 24 prioritized municipalities of the 'Dry Corridor' and Caribbean Coast.

In Nicaragua, the premature birth rate was 9.3 percent in 2010, per data from the World Health Organization, and 8.8 percent in 2016. The Demographic and Health Survey report (2011/2012) mentions that the national neonatal mortality rate dropped from 16 to 8 per 1,000 live births compared with the previous Demographic and Health Survey (2006/2007). However, in rural areas this rate was 10 per 1,000 live births for reasons related to timely access to quality services.

Through coordinated work with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF Nicaragua contributed to a reduction in infant mortality rates between 7 per cent and 9 per cent in prioritized municipalities

with the highest rates. For this, the quality teams from the local systems for integral health care (SILAIS) conducted analyses of determinants, and designed and implemented action plans that allowed a reduction in mortality due to premature birth of 30 per cent in Siuna and 50 per cent in Bilwi and Madriz during 2014–2016. A total of 78 per cent of babies born prematurely had low birthweight and 22 percent had very low weight. One important cause of death was associated to congenital malformations, particularly in the Madriz hospital, where the rate was 35 per cent, according to Ministry of Health reports.

In this framework, with technical assistance from UNICEF, doctors and nurses from the paediatric services of the hospitals of Nueva Segovia, Madriz and the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region, who attend to vulnerable populations with multiple privations, analysed neonatal mortality and identified bottlenecks and barriers that make it hard for mothers and their newborn babies to access the kangaroo family strategy. The analysis focused on the quality of health services and on the community and family environment where the deaths of recently born or small children occur, particularly in more remote areas with poorer populations. The data were analysed in a disaggregated way by the health unit; barriers and facilitating factors were identified; and solutions were prioritized to remove bottlenecks in the SILAIS that have populations with greater disadvantages. A quality team was established in each hospital that was responsible for follow-up, guaranteeing the linkage between the two health-care levels (hospitals and health centres) and training the health personnel.

An analysis was also performed in those municipalities with the lowest coverage to define the determining factors behind low immunization coverage. Based on this analysis, a workplan was implemented to improve knowledge and capacities among 300 community leaders so that they could provide counselling in their communities on the importance of vaccines and the immunization schedules to reduce lost opportunities. The Social Ecological Model for Social and Behaviour Change was used to train the community leaders, combined with a methodological process and tools for adult education. That process has helped increase immunization coverage with the pentavalent vaccine among children under 1 years old in the above-mentioned geographical areas by 5–10 percent compared with 2016.

UNICEF Nicaragua also supported the updating of the Ministry of Health-Community Information System to facilitate community-level monitoring and reporting.

Additionally, UNICEF has sought to incorporate cooperation strategies that strengthen the inclusion of children with disabilities. In this sense, collaboration started with the Ministry of Education to support inclusive education in which children with disabilities can effectively integrate into the teaching and learning processes without any kind of barriers. A plan of action was designed to develop learning tools for reading and writing and to create audio-visual materials useful for children with mental, visual and auditory disabilities, thus contributing to the development of the primary school curriculum. It is planned to support the Ministry of Education in evaluating the learning of children with disabilities and the training of teaching staff from regular schools to ensure integral and integrated attention. In the Caribbean Coast, support was provided to review the standards for attending to disabilities in emergency situations, while a dialogue was also promoted between the regional and national authorities to produce a plan to reinforce inclusive education in the region.

Moreover, UNICEF contributed to the development of an alternative preschool programme to address issues related to gender equity in early childhood in the Caribbean Coast. This was done from a local perspective that considers the particularities of this multi-ethnic and plurilingual region. The programme aims to promote behaviours such as acceptance of

diversity, tolerance, socialization among genders, and the balanced participation of girls and boys in activities that break with stereotypes. The programme is in the process of being made official by the regional authorities for its subsequent use in preschool classrooms.

Strategic Plan 2018–2021

The Country Office is in the process of producing its next cooperation programme with the Nicaraguan State for the period 2019–2023, which is being done in close collaboration with government partners at different levels and from different ministries. This will prioritize three programmatic areas that are essential for children in the country: early childhood development, quality and inclusive education, and the protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation. These issues correspond to specific objectives of the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018–2021: every child survives and thrives, every child learns, and every child is protected from violence and exploitation. They are also aligned with the National Development Plan's priorities and directly related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 and 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

With respect to early childhood development, UNICEF will continue strengthening the integrated work of three national ministries (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children) to ensure children's survival, their physical and cognitive development, and their right to live in environments that protect against violence. The most significant line of work will therefore be strengthening the national systems through capacity building, and the generation of evidence and support for sectoral integration, so that the most excluded populations can be reached through scaled-up interventions led by the national bodies.

In terms of quality and inclusive education, the challenge is to strengthen the Ministry of Education to achieve the goals of the National Education Plan, which is based on three pillars: quality education, equitable coverage and institutional capacity building. To this end, it is intended to support the development of innovative proposals to contribute to expanded coverage and school attendance, the development of institutional capacities to improve the quality of teaching and learning, and the generation of evidence to strengthen institutional school management. It is also worth stressing that UNICEF coordinates the Roundtable of Education Donors in Nicaragua, which links efforts to strengthen results in this area.

In child protection, work will be done on the prevention of violence against children and care for girls and women who are victims of violence. UNICEF will stress the generation of evidence and knowledge on the causes of violence as a basis for the design and implementation of prevention strategies; the application of laws that stop impunity and ensure protection; and the generation of behaviour changes to prevent such situations. To achieve these objectives, work will be strengthened with state institutions such as the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children, the Supreme Court of Justice, Legal Medicine Institute, the National Police, the National Assembly, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and the departmental- and municipal-level institutions. Given that violence is a multidimensional phenomenon, one of the main strategies will be inter-institutional integration to coordinate the implementation of prevention and victims care programmes, and forming alliances to scale up the scope of the services. Work with children and their families on social and behaviour changes will be done in a cross-cutting way from the demand side, strengthening the positive child rearing standards, the importance of early childhood development, the appreciation of education, the improvement of school management, and the fostering of life and self-care skills to generate protective family and community environments. The different components will be reinforced in a cross-cutting

way by generating evidence to advocate for adequate and timely budgets for children, the costing of public intervention models for scaling up, and the follow up and monitoring of child indicators. In this respect, for the monitoring of the Strategic Plan 2018–2021, efforts will be made to align the indicators of the different programmatic components with the institutional results framework, when the official information is available.

Alliances will play a fundamental role in enhancing efforts to achieve the expected results. Work will be done with the United Nations agencies on different issues, such as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the prevention of violence and sexual abuse, the reduction of maternal and infant mortality, and the prevention of adolescent pregnancy. Coordination with the media will be enhanced to place rights on the public agenda and build social awareness. The agreement with international organizations such as the World Bank, the European Union and national institutions on issues related to measuring early childhood development, improving health care and quality education, the development of life skills and employability among adolescents, and the prevention of adolescent pregnancy represents a window of opportunity for joint collaboration.

Emerging areas of importance

Accelerate integrated early childhood development (ECD). UNICEF works on early childhood development with an integrating perspective for the systematic implementation of the National Early Childhood Policy, developing activities in the areas of health, nutrition, education and child protection. This has helped reduce child mortality by about nine per cent in the country's poorest, most remote municipalities with the highest rates. The manual on Growth and Development Monitoring and Promotion, which has an integrated focus, has been updated and linked to the care in the early stimulation rooms of 47 of the country's municipalities (31 per cent), corresponding to seven prioritized SILAIS.

In addition, with technical and financial assistance from UNICEF, the Ministry of Health extended implementation of the Kangaroo Family Regulations to the national level and enhanced the capacities of 244 doctors and nurses from hospitals and health centres for providing follow-up to children in their communities and families. Meanwhile, support continued for the Ministry of Health's certification of Mother- and Child-Friendly Health Units to guarantee institutional sustainability.

To ensure quality and timely follow-up for children with disabilities, including congenital hypothyroidism, the Nicaraguan Congenital Malformations Registry was strengthened, establishing linkage between hospitals and health units. A total of 100 health professionals were trained on the system and the training for identifying and screening hypothyroidism was extended to the national level. Meanwhile, quality and inclusive care was provided to more than 88 percent of children born to mothers with confirmed or suspected Zika.

Greater focus on the second decade of life. UNICEF Nicaragua has helped enhance the skills of adolescents for the prevention of violence, early age pregnancy and overcoming poverty through employability. In this respect, support was given for 10,245 adolescents and youths (66 per cent male, 44 per cent female) to participate in community intervention plans, implemented by the National Police in four municipalities, where they developed skills to prevent drug consumption, the use of arms and violence through sports and recreational activities.

In addition, the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children was supported in gathering inputs for the National Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Care Strategy. In this respect, 246

adolescents (60 per cent girls, 40 per cent boys) participated in the consultation process in workshops held in the country's 15 departments. The adolescents' main demands revolved around changing their relationship with their parents, the strengthening of family communication and access to information on sexuality.

In addition, support was given to a pilot project for the development of a ludic pedagogy for adolescents in conflict with the law, which has involved the participation of 75 adolescents (90 per cent boys, 10 per cent girls) who are subject to alternative measures to deprivation of liberty. The pedagogy focuses on a systemic approach on life skills.

In the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region, 80 adolescents and youths (19 adolescent girls) in a situation of exclusion and risk were trained on building and plumbing to help their insertion in the local labour market. The course was certified by the National Technological Institute and is now part of the professional training it offers.

In addition, UNICEF continued fostering adolescent participation in the community-level response to social problems through an approach based on social innovation and open innovation. In this respect, the Bluefields, Indian and Caribbean University Innovation Laboratory facilitated the participation of more than 300 adolescents and youth between the ages of 10 and 20 in different reflection and capacity development spaces, including social innovation camps, the Latin American Innovation Rally, and workshops to develop twenty-first-century skills, such as innovation, entrepreneurship and mobile applications).

Climate change and children. UNICEF Nicaragua has addressed climate change through environmental education and the reduction of the risk of natural disasters. In this context, it has helped strengthen the capacities of 20 educational communities of the Caribbean Coast characterized by their high level of vulnerability. This involved updating risk maps and disaster risk reduction plans and simulation exercises with the participation of 331 students (191 girls). The construction of school water and sanitation systems with a focus based on climate change adaptation, equity and inclusion —including rainwater harvesting, recycling plastic bottles, and toilet facilities with low water consumption – also continued to be promoted.

With technical support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Health prepared the National Food and Nutrition Manual for Resilience in Emergencies, which implied a broad process involving multidisciplinary and intersectoral participation. Its implementation involved training the Inter-American Development Bank's group of nutrition technical advisers, personnel from the country's 17 SILAIS and personnel from the National Disaster Prevention Mitigation and Response System. The manual was presented at the National Nutrition Forum and was produced thanks to the establishment of a strategic alliance among the Institute of Nutrition for Central America and Panama, PanAmerican Health Organization, Inter-American Development Bank and UNICEF.

Summary notes and acronyms

C4D	communication for development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SILAIS	Local System for Integral Health Care
VISION	Virtual Integrated System of Information

Capacity development

UNICEF provided technical and financial support for strengthening national capacities to protect and restore children's rights in different areas, including:

(1) helping the reinforcement of the Ministry of Health's institutional capacities to develop behaviour changes in communities, aiming at improving maternal and infant health. For this, 50 Ministry of Health technicians were trained in a diploma course on C4D and community participation. Those technicians then replicated their knowledge, facilitating training processes for 150 community leaders to develop community communication and participation on issues related to child health and nutrition in the municipalities prioritized by UNICEF cooperation.

(2) The Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children has scaled up to the national level the strategy for comprehensive training of early childhood educators, which has a positive masculinity focus, reinforcing the capacities of 762 community educators to provide children and their families with the required knowledge to generate healthy, affectionate and cognitively stimulating child-rearing environments, respecting children as subjects of rights.

(3) the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government, the National Engineering University, and National Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response System strengthened the capacities of key actors for emergency preparedness and response through a water, sanitation and hygiene course on emergencies aimed at 30 regional and municipal technicians, and an online training course on comprehensive disaster risk management with a child rights approach for communicators and journalists.

(4) UNICEF contributed with international experts to strengthen capacities among nearly 1,000 members of the educational community for the promotion of violence-free school environments and psychosocial care in situations of emergency or social risk. In addition, about 1,000 teachers from different levels reinforced their skills on issues such as health care in education and teacher training based on innovation and creativity.

(5) The South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government strengthened the technical capacities of officials from public institutions responsible for preventing and protecting children from violence, through multi-sectoral trainings on information analysis, data collection methods, and design and analysis of indicators.

Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy

UNICEF Nicaragua's technical and financial support has allowed the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children to generate knowledge on and systematize the deinstitutionalization of children in the country. It showed that Nicaragua managed to reduce the number of institutionalized children from 3,600 to 716 between 2007 and 2017, an 80 per cent reduction over 10 years. The systematization of this process of deinstitutionalizing the children living in special protection centres in Nicaragua has generated evidence on and documented a good practice to guide the ongoing improvement of the Loving Return Strategy. It will also serve as a reference for other countries in the region where similar deinstitutionalization policies are promoted.

UNICEF Nicaragua designed and launched the 'Prevention of sexual abuse of children starts at home' communication and advocacy strategy, based on statistical data and analysis from the Legal Medicine Institute's national study on violence against women and children. The study revealed that 82 per cent of sexual crimes committed between 2013 and 2015 were against children under the age of 17, with most of the crimes committed in the home either by a family

member or someone known in the family environment. In addition to contributing to the dissemination and reach of this study, UNICEF initiated an alliance with the Legal Medicine Institute to strengthen its information systems and develop new studies on violence against children that provide additional evidence for decision making.

The process of building C4D capacities among Ministry of Health officials since 2014 allowed the documentation of results and lessons learned from local experiences of implementing communication strategies in four SILAIS. Thanks to this evidence, Ministry of Health authorities decided to offer a diploma course on communication for development with UNICEF support to more than 100 technicians from the country's 17 SILAIS and 2 Autonomous Regions, in addition to proposing to scale up the tool through online courses as part of the institutional training of health personnel action plan.

Partnerships

The alliance with the Supreme Court of Justice/Legal Medicine Institute allowed the Country Office to have access to and position medical-legal national data and analysis on violence and sexual abuse against children that revealed the reality facing children in the country. This partnership will also allow for more in-depth studies on violence against children in 2018 that will provide the judicial system with further evidence for the correct administration of justice.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children, Supreme Court of Justice/Legal Medicine Institute and the communication media, the 'Prevention of sexual abuse against children starts at home' communication strategy was launched in September, strengthening this issue on the agendas of these Nicaraguan state institutions, raising people's awareness and enhancing the attention and response to situations of violence.

Alliances with the media have been strengthened through training sessions on the prevention of sexual violence against children, involving editors, journalists and, in some cases, media directors. The trainings focused on an approach based on children's human rights and the systemic vision of violence, achieving the participation of more than 100 journalists. Meanwhile, a year-long alliance was signed with ND Medios to disseminate messages on five behaviours prioritized in the sexual abuse prevention strategy.

The collaboration with the Roundtable on Safe Internet Use, coordinated by the Nicaraguan Council of Science and Technology, and made up of actors from different sectors (civil society organizations, private business, academia, the National Police, Supreme Court of Justice, Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children and Ministry of Education), allowed the strengthening of the coordinated approach to this issue in the country.

External communication and public advocacy

Communication and public advocacy have been essential strategies for positioning children's rights, with an emphasis on the Country Office's priorities: prevention of violence and sexual abuse; and early childhood development.

The 'Prevention of sexual abuse against children starts at home' communication strategy was launched. The strategy's outputs were disseminated through various traditional and non-traditional media, including digital media and broad-reaching social networks.

Special days were promoted through live appearances in the media and in-depth interviews.

The Breastfeeding Month saw the promotion of the key role of breastfeeding and the importance of the first 1,000 days of life. This campaign included interviews on 18 television programmes, in written press and on the radio. For World Children's Day, the media produced 50 reports and adolescents 'took power' on nine television and radio programmes with the biggest audiences in the country. Moreover, the #EstadodeGol campaign promoted the right to play, in collaboration with the Nicaraguan Football Federation, in the context of the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football Gold Cup.

UNICEF Nicaragua continued to lead the way in terms of followers (48,362) compared with similar organizations. The programmatic contents on its dissemination channels emphasized early childhood development, prevention of sexual violence and abuse against children, breastfeeding, the SDGs and children's rights. UNICEF Nicaragua has full support in the social media, achieving an extraordinary outreach of more than 19,022,424 people through social networks and traditional media.

The monthly monitoring of the global advocacy strategy's key performance indicators by a publicity company continued, allowing real-time knowledge of the performance and the impact of the interactions with the population. The most significant results were: (1) estimated publicity (on television, radio, printed) = US\$1,902,336; (2) reach: 19,022,424; (3) percentage of coverage of UNICEF in online media: 96.5; and (4) number of potential impressions in online and print media: 551,266.

A total of 101 digital campaigns, 13 life stories and 89 press releases were produced on relevant UNICEF and counterpart activities.

South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation

UNICEF promoted and facilitated South-South cooperation through the sharing of experiences, good practices and lessons learned in different thematic areas. In this context, it helped incorporate a child-based focus into the National Assembly's review of the national budget. UNICEF facilitated the legislative branch's participation in the Fifth International Seminar on Public Investment In Children held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, a direct result of which was the review of the national budget with a special focus on investment in children, which involved the participation of 100 National Assembly representatives and officials.

Meanwhile, UNICEF helped strengthen the technical capacities of educational leaders on issues related to: school safety; the prevention of different forms of violence, including sexual violence and adolescent pregnancy; psychosocial support; and emergency preparedness, all in the framework of the implementation of the educational communities counselling strategy. To this end, UNICEF facilitated the participation of international experts from Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Spain and Uruguay in the form of keynote addresses and the sharing of experiences during national meetings. These exchanges have also contributed to the building of a database of specialized human resources and of international experiences that could potentially be reproduced in the country.

UNICEF helped disseminate Nicaraguan experiences related to the promotion of prenatal care for the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality, and of breastfeeding. In this context, UNICEF facilitated the presentation of the ToyContigo and TeleSalud C4D strategies at the International Forum of Medicine Faculties of the Caribbean and Central America. These experiences were presented by representatives from the Ministry of Health in the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region and from the Faculty of Medicine at the National

Autonomous University of Nicaragua, generating interest at the regional level and identifying possible new meetings to explore the issues in greater depth.

Identification and promotion of innovation

With the aim of improving the integrated response to the Zika epidemic, reaching the most vulnerable neighbourhoods of Managua, UNICEF Nicaragua, the Sustainable Sciences Institute and the University of California's (Berkeley) Social Apps Lab developed an innovative strategy that was tested in a pilot study. Using technology as an instrument of community mobilization, the ZikaChat Platform overcame access barriers, enabling the documentation, management and elimination of potential *Aedes aegypti* mosquito breeding grounds in more than 30 neighbourhoods (60 per cent) of two districts in Managua. As a result of this pilot process, the Ministry of Health's Epidemiology Directorate started using the tool to monitor the entomological infestation rates for each house through the recording of house-to-house visits made by 480 community health workers.

With the aim of extending the promotion, prevention and primary health-care services in the framework of the family and community health model and of improving the planning of the sectorized work, UNICEF accompanied the Ministry of Health in building capacities among community leaders to use technology to refer, record and follow up on the counter-referrals of pregnant women, women who have recently given birth and children discharged from health units. In this case, the use of technology eliminates obstacles to ensure quality and reduce lost opportunities in the care process, as it allows georeferentiation of the cases identified and referrals made in the community. The Community Information System has also been updated, while health personnel from the country's 153 municipalities and the family and community health teams' 1,496 sectors have been trained. This platform is complementing the Ministry of Health's Official Information System.

Support to integration and cross-sectoral linkages

The prevention of violence, with an emphasis on the sexual abuse of children, has been an intersectoral priority for UNICEF Nicaragua, addressing the issue from early childhood development, education and child protection, contributing an integral and multisectoral approach to violence against children. The multiple alliances achieved through awareness building on this issue have allowed actions to be developed in the social, jurisdictional and legislative sectors, where partners such as the Ministry of Education, Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children, the National Police, the Supreme Court of Justice, the Legal Medicine Institute and the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government have agreed on the importance of strengthening dialogue and coordination.

The Country Office has been a key actor, fostering open dialogue and joint reflection, while also directing actions for inter-institutional strengthening on the prevention of violence and care for its victims. These institutions have joined and been key partners in the 'Prevention of sexual abuse starts at home' strategy, launched by UNICEF in September 2017.

UNICEF also provided intersectoral support to the Ministry of Health and Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children in the development of normative frameworks and processes focused on child development and child-rearing capacities based on a comprehensive care approach. To generate these synergies, the Ministry of Health's Monitoring and Promotion of Growth and Development guidelines were updated and the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children designed a Comprehensive Training Strategy with a Positive Masculinity Approach. This has strengthened the competencies of child development centre educators who work with children

under the age of 6 and favoured quality pedagogic activities, early age learning and the participation of fathers and mothers in the family-community modality of both institutions. In addition, in the framework of the National Early Childhood Policy, the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children is linking actions with the Nicaraguan Municipal Development Institute to broaden the coverage of child development centres, which have increased in number from 63 in 2010 to 215 in 2017.

Service delivery

UNICEF Nicaragua supported the Ministry of Education in the implementation of the strategy for the prevention of violence at school, in the family and in the community. This involved training 160,000 teachers, students and parents from the educational communities counselling committees, while international and national forums were also funded on different issues and materials were provided for the strategy's training and dissemination work.

In addition, the Ministry of Education advanced with the improvement of educational quality in accordance with the National Education Plan's strategic lines. Within this framework, UNICEF Nicaragua supported the holding of a diploma course on school management for the professionalization of nearly 1,000 school directors and sub-directors. At the same time, didactic tools (programmes and curricula) were provided to at least 3,000 preschool teachers across the country, with particular attention to the Caribbean Coast region.

With UNICEF support, the Ministry of Health increased immunization coverage by 4 per cent to 10 percent in 14 prioritized municipalities of the four SILAIS with the country's lowest immunization coverage. This was achieved through the promotion of immunization, the reduction of lost opportunities, and the identification and referral of non-immunized children by community leaders. In this respect, UNICEF Nicaragua supported the Ministry of Health in the production of the Vaccinator's Booklet, its monitoring instrument, and the training of 300 community leaders. Strengthening community actions, 523 workers from 174 family and community health teams were trained on the use of tools, monitoring techniques, data registration, and key indicators for programmatic analysis and decision making.

Human rights-based approach to cooperation

UNICEF Nicaragua has incorporated the rights-based approach into its cooperation, with emphasis on children with greater disadvantages living in poorest and most excluded geographic areas. This was done through evidence-based communication and advocacy strategies for ensuring that national policies prioritize excluded children and generating knowledge that highlights the most excluded groups.

In 2017, the production of the situation analysis was led by the Government through the institutions responsible for guaranteeing the rights of children for their full development (Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, the National Police and the South and North Caribbean Coast Regional Governments).

It was elaborated based on three essential rights that will guide the Country Office's work during the next cooperation cycle: early child survival and development; quality education; and child protection.

An equity approach was used, stressing those situations of greatest exclusion or prevalence – whether due to the geographical location, population group or age group – that are commonly overlooked in the national averages. Finally, the situation analysis also highlighted cross-cutting

aspects related to children's rights, such as child poverty, disabilities, climate change, the 2030 Agenda and gender equality.

The partnership between UNICEF Nicaragua and the legislative branch contributed to the analysis of compliance with children's rights and the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. National Assembly representatives and officials have internalized the essential contents of national legislation and international instruments on child, youth and family rights, while increased knowledge has also been fostered among parliamentarians and the citizenry on the issue of child rights.

The fourth report was the last one that was submitted to the Committee on Rights of Children in 2010. Despite the Nicaraguan State having produced the fifth and sixth reports, they weren't yet submitted. This has limited open dialogue on the country's fulfilment and existing challenges. UNICEF remains available to support the country in preparing/submitting the reports.

Gender equality

In 2017, significant progress was made in programmatic initiatives with a gender approach, with an emphasis on the prevention of gender violence, particularly sexual violence and adolescent pregnancy. Nicaragua has a high adolescent pregnancy rate. According to official data, approximately 25 percent of pregnant women are adolescents. Meanwhile, the Legal Medicine Institute indicates that between 2013 and 2015, a total of 82 per cent of female victims of sexual violence were girls.

Based on this reality and in conjunction with the Government, UNICEF Nicaragua designed and launched a communications strategy for the prevention of sexual abuse called 'The prevention of sexual abuse starts at home', which aims to change behaviours in families, providing specific work, communication and self-care tools for fathers, mothers and children.

The Country Office also strengthened the judicial branch's gender policy through a partnership with the gender technical secretariat, strengthening the technical capacities of 153 local judges across the country for the application of a gender approach, the prevention of violence and child rights. The judges in turn trained 5,000 rural judicial facilitators who have the function of raising awareness and accompanying families in all communities on violence-related situations. Reader-friendly booklets on violence prevention, gender and child rights were designed and published for this work.

UNICEF also contributed to the design of a National Policy and Strategy for the Prevention of and Care for Adolescent Pregnancy through a process of reflection under the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children's leadership. With technical and financial assistance from UNICEF, consultations were carried out with 595 adolescent boys and girls from across the country, as well as fathers, mothers, teachers and Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children officials, to obtain inputs for the design of the early age pregnancy prevention strategy.

With UNICEF support, the Education Secretariats of the North and South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Governments produced didactic guides to address the issue of new masculinities with preschool-aged boys and girls. This effort is based on the need to contribute to positive change in gender relations, by a society that has traditionally stressed the value of men over woman.

Environmental sustainability

UNICEF Nicaragua continued working on actions that link environmental education with disaster risk reduction through national and local-level interventions mainly focused on schools. From a national perspective, the Ministry of Education held a national meeting to improve coordination between the technical disaster liaison units and the technical units related to school security and psychosocial care, as part of the education sector's emergency response strategy.

At the local level, intersectoral work was done with the participation of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and municipal environmental units to produce and validate the school activities guide for the control and elimination of *Aedes aegypti* in the three educational modalities. Meanwhile, bottles have continued to be reused for the construction of school hydro-sanitary infrastructure. This year, approximately 12,000 bottles were recycled to build demonstrative hydro-sanitary units in six preschools, benefiting 340 children in early education and reducing the cost of the infrastructure by 30 per cent. The local authorities have committed to continue replicating this kind of experience in other schools.

The Country Office also finalized the migration of technological infrastructure from desktop PCs and their peripherals (such as CPUs, monitors, stabilizers) to laptops with low electricity consumption. The servers, rack and other Internet peripherals were migrated to 'cloud' computing and storage services. The emails are operated via Internet from the Panama Office under the 'LIGHT' strategy, for a reduction in consumption of more than 60 per cent in information and communication technology infrastructure.

Complementary to these actions, during the third round of calls organized by the Greening & Accessibility Fund for the selection of innovative initiatives that help reduce the carbon footprint, UNICEF Nicaragua presented two initiatives to lower air conditioning in the offices by up to 15 degrees through the installation of insulating material in the roofs and the replacement of air-conditioning units with inverter technology. The proposals totalling US\$19,000, whose implementation would reduce the monthly electricity consumption by 35 per cent for a 49 per cent carbon footprint reduction, were approved and the funds transferred to the Country Office. However, they were not implemented due to pending negotiations with the United Nations Development Programme over the contract for renting the building.

Effective leadership

The country management team supported the Representative in decision making on strategic issues such as the formulation of the new Country Programme, the design and monitoring of the annual management plan and the annual workplans, the updating of the risk assessment and the early warning early action (EWEA) systems, and the design and implementation of the action plan in response to the results of the Global Staff Survey. In the country management team's six regular meetings, the following management indicators were reviewed and monitored: direct cash transfers, financial implementation, and delivery of quality donors' reports on time, among others.

The country management team periodically reviewed progress on the reduction of travel costs. The comparative analysis revealed a reduction of US\$55,000 (41 per cent) between January and December 2016 and the same period in 2017. The optimization of mission agendas, greater ownership and use of mobile technology, and long-distance meetings using Skype for Business helped achieve this.

With country management team accompaniment, the closing of the field sub-offices in the

Caribbean Coast was completed. This was approved in the regional Programme and Budget Review, which also approved the post of operations officer at NOB level.

UNICEF Nicaragua was also the first office in the world to pilot the Enterprise Content Management system, a new work tool for the more efficient management of institutional information with ShareDrives and access to collaborative documentation, stressing the management of digital documentation rather than physical copies.

The business continuity plan was updated and the staff trained on its application. The members of the plan were mapped using geolocalization. PVC cards with the 'call sign' and conventional telephone number were printed and distributed to plan members.

In line with the auditing observations from previous years, the table of authorities was also updated in the Virtual Integrated System of Information (VISION), mitigating 'conflicts' in the delegation of authority that jeopardized the Country Office's internal control scheme.

Financial resources management

The Country Office has systematically reviewed the indicators related to direct cash transfers and financial implementation and has complied with the annual management plan goal of keeping the total outstanding balance between six and nine months below 5 per cent, as well as 0 per cent of outstanding balance after nine months.

In the harmonized approach to cash transfer framework, the Country Office has ensured the effective use of financial resources to achieve the results expected in the annual workplans. A total of four financial audits were conducted (100 per cent of those planned) to implementing partners (South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government, North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health), in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund. The audits did not reveal any significant negative aspects in the administration of resources by the implementing partners and the recommendations focused on internal controls and certain institutional processes.

Meanwhile, the Country Office completed 100 per cent of the programmatic monitoring visits to the partners, 80 per cent of the planned spot checks (the remaining one was postponed until January in agreement with the implementing partner) and implementing partner training sessions on harmonized approach to cash transfer principles and operating aspects.

With the launch of the new eZHACT module, the Country Office sent two staff members to the regional training workshop and they subsequently replicated this course to UNICEF Nicaragua programme officers and assistants.

The Country Office implemented 96 per cent of the US\$3.4 million available in 2017: 100 per cent of Regular Resources assigned to Nicaragua (US\$1.3 million); 99.7 per cent of Other Resources (US\$1.5 million); 100 per cent of Other Resources Emergency (US\$0.2 million) and 86 per cent of the available Institutional Budget (US\$0.4 million).

Fundraising and donor relations

At the end of the fifth year of the programme cycle, UNICEF Nicaragua managed to raise only 29 per cent of the Country Programme's planned other resources ceiling. The Country Office has suffered a drastic reduction in funds in recent years due to donors leaving the country, including Nicaragua's classification as a low-middle-income country and the multiple global

emergencies that have demanded donors' prioritization.

In this context, the Country Office obtained support from the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office through the allocation of global and regional thematic funds, allowing UNICEF Nicaragua to keep supporting the country in strategic areas. In addition, the Country Office, in close coordination with the UNICEF Regional Office, negotiated and obtained a US\$222,000 donation from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to reinforce the country's capacity to provide prevention and care services to children affected by Zika.

The Country Office also undertook the first steps to initiate local-level fundraising and mobilization by conducting an analysis of the national market potential for corporate fundraising. The analysis showed that the total Local Corporate Fundraising Market Potential is about US\$1.4 million and the Multi-Country Alliance fundraising potential is US\$2.6 million. In this framework, the Country Office obtained the Government's authorization to join the Central American Sub-Regional Fundraising Alliance with the Bank of Central America to undertake a fundraising campaign in Nicaragua, which started in December 2017.

To monitor the use of funds and avoid unnecessary extensions, the Country Office conducted systematic monthly monitoring of the implementation of grants and their expiry dates in programme team and Country Management Team meetings. Agile layers of revision guaranteed the delivery of quality donor reports within the established periods. All the donor reports produced during the reporting period were sent on time.

Evaluation and research

UNICEF conducted an evaluation of seven pilot projects implemented by the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government in the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region. This evaluation was the second evaluation of the Cooperation Cycle, and the first evaluation of programmatic contents. Done in a participatory and transparent way, the evaluation allowed assessment of the pertinence, alignment, efficacy, efficiency, ownership, impact and sustainability of seven pilot projects initiated in the past three years: ToyContigo, Telesalud, birth registration, injury surveillance system, building and plumbing training with a climate change focus, real-time monitoring of school management, and the Bluefields Indian and Caribbean University's Innovations Laboratory.

The final report includes a series of short-, medium- and long-term recommendations to guide decision making and the planning and programmatic implementation processes aimed at scaling up these initiatives to the Caribbean region level or in other parts of the country. The evidence generated from this evaluation will be used to design the new UNICEF cooperation programme with the Nicaraguan State for 2019–2023. The results also suggest certain aspects that the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government can improve for adequate linkage among the regional and national government levels for efficient service provision.

This evaluation, which has been entrusted to a team of independent external consultants, has been considered objective by both the UNICEF team and the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government authorities and technical team. Documents were reviewed, interviews were held with key project actors and participants, and focus groups were formed in order to triangulate information and generate the most objective response. For its part, the Regional Office pronounced it satisfactory, as the report is clearly structured and presents conclusions by programme in a summarized and complete form.

Efficiency gains and cost savings

The Country Office concluded the 'server switch off' and successfully migrated to new ways of working, managing documents and emails on the cloud. The remote accesses are administered from the UNICEF Regional Office in Panama, there are no local servers or switches, and the server room air-conditioning units have also been switched off.

The installation of new split air-conditioning units in all the ground floor offices of the building used by UNICEF was completed. These use inverter technologies that reduces the energy consumption by 30–40 percent. The work stations of the UNICEF Nicaragua staff were migrated to laptops, implementing the current standards for such machines that use significantly less electricity than the previous PCs.

UNICEF Nicaragua made important efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and administer domestic and international trips, resulting in significant savings without affecting accompaniment of the implementing partners or the quality of end-of-year results. The savings from January to December 2017 compared with the same period in 2016 were US\$30,029.19 (47 per cent) for national trips and US\$25,387.85 (36 per cent) for international ones, for total savings of US\$55,417.04 (41 per cent). The percentage of travel costs compared with total funds implemented (regular resources, other resources and other resources emergency) by the Country Office dropped from 7.2 per cent in 2016 to 2.9 per cent in 2017.

Supply management

UNICEF Nicaragua coordinated with the implementing partners for the acquisition of goods and their delivery by the providers either directly in the warehouses or to designated points, guaranteeing that all goods were satisfactorily received in locations that were not the Country Office. In this way, the Country Office mitigated the risk of obsolescence and/or damage to the goods within the office, reducing the material and human resources for their safekeeping.

The Country Office's annual procurement plan included the goods and services for operations and programmes in order to improve a tool for managing and monitoring their procurement.

UNICEF Nicaragua also included the procurement of each implementing partner's goods in the Annual Workplan corresponding to each of those partners, thus facilitating more efficient and coordinated implementation within the programmed times in conjunction with each implementing partner, while also guaranteeing delivery in the places designated and required by each of them.

During 2017, procurement processes were also directly conducted by UNICEF, with direct implementation amounting to US\$26,000 for changing the National Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response System technological infrastructure and US\$36,000 for printing materials for the Ministry of Education. Other procurement processes carried out are reflected in the following table:

Total value of supplies in US dollars		
Programmes	Goods	33,241.87
	Services	103,459.46
	Total	136,701.33
Operations	Goods	11,616.94
	Services	193,541.17
	Total	205,158.11
TOTAL		341,859.44

Security for staff and premises

Up to November 2017, the United Nations Department of Safety and Security accumulated six security incidents for the United Nations system in Nicaragua, three of which corresponded to UNICEF Nicaragua. These incidents involved the collision of an official vehicle and mobile phone robbery. According to the National Police of Nicaragua, by the end of October a total of 37,500 traffic accidents had been reported.

In September, the United Nations Department of Safety and Security trained women from the whole United Nations system on the safe and secure approaches to field environment (SSAFE), with co-facilitation from UNICEF. A total of 70 staff members were trained in this session, 10 of them from UNICEF Nicaragua.

Business continuity plan training was provided to all UNICEF staff during August, covering issues such as mobile applications, an introduction to and training on telecommunications, geolocalization of all UNICEF Nicaragua staff, the use of BGAN and satellite positioning for voice and data transmission. The Country Office's Business Continuity Plan document was updated.

In April, the Country Office's two drivers participated in and completed the course on driving 4x4 vehicles and defensive driving given and facilitated by World Food Programme staff. They both received certification.

UNICEF Nicaragua also contributed to the real-time, closed-circuit television monitoring system in the United Nations building. A server was donated for the system to be connected to in order to guarantee uninterrupted monitoring of the premises.

Human resources

The development and training plan was based on the response to needs expressed by the staff in the Global Staff Survey and the staff association workplan, as well as on information obtained from staff members during the workplan's preparation process. In 2017, strengthening the staff's capacities and competences was focused on the preparation of the new Country Programme

Document, as well as on new initiatives for reforms and a new performance culture. The development and training plan had 82 per cent of its activities implemented. As part of the staff development, three staff members made stretch assignment missions to support the needs of other offices in the region.

In addition, an action plan for follow-up of the results of the Global Staff Survey was designed with the staff's active participation and the leadership of the staff association and the country management team. This included actions for prioritizing the most mentioned areas and two additional ones. The plan's implementation has been monitored by the country management team and is part of the Country Office training plan and the staff association workplan.

All staff members actively participated in a workshop on the new performance management culture in April 2017, which was facilitated by experts from UNICEF headquarters. Activities developed to improve performance management included: honest, transparent and assertive formal and informal feedback between supervisors and supervisees. The Country Office was one of the pilot countries for the promotion of this new performance management culture. Likewise, colleagues from UNICEF New York Headquarters, in partnership with a Chilean non-governmental organization, facilitated a public policy advocacy training addressed to programme, communications and representation colleagues.

Moreover, staff members were trained on the new protocol for the use and management of the post-exposure prophylaxis kit and on HIV prevention. In addition, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs experts facilitated a humanitarian cycle workshop on emergency risk management and response that involved the participation of all the staff.

Effective use of information and communication technology

Migration from physical servers to the 'LIGHT' environment was completed in March, guaranteeing management and communication from any location with Internet connectivity, which strengthens the business continuity plan and significantly modifies the information recovery strategy in emergency situations.

As part of inter-agency initiatives, the Country Office joined the long-term agreement previously signed by the PanAmerican Health Organization with a local Internet provider, which has implied a reduction in the service tariff of nearly 30 per cent.

Following a global-level analysis and in an agreement between the UNICEF Regional Office and UNICEF NY Headquarters, UNICEF Nicaragua was chosen to pilot the implementation of the Enterprise Content Management system for the management and administration of all of UNICEF's institutional documentation. Following this process, five colleagues from UNICEF NY Headquarters' Enterprise Content Management team and two staff members from the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office visited Nicaragua in November to initiate the pilot project. UNICEF Nicaragua is the first country office in the world to implement this system and platform, which will facilitate the digital management of information and its dissemination. The Country Office is regularly sharing information with the team responsible for facilitating the Enterprise Content Management global-level roll-out.

It is important to mention that UNICEF Nicaragua fully completed the migration of all laptop equipment to the Windows 10 and Office 2016 environments.

Additionally, in the context of Information and Communication Technology for Development,

advice was guaranteed to UNICEF Nicaragua's implementing partners for the implementation of the TeleSalud and ToyContigo projects in the Bluefields area as part of the innovation projects strategy.

Programme components from RAM

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 early childhood development.

Analytical statement of progress:

Through coordinated work with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children, UNICEF contributed to: (i) the reduction of infant mortality by 7–9 per cent in the municipalities with the highest rates; (ii) a 5–10 percent increase in pentavalent vaccine immunization coverages among children under 1 years old in municipalities with the lowest coverages in the four prioritized SILAIS; (iii) 88 per cent of children born to mothers with confirmed or suspected Zika having clinical follow-up; and (iv) the improved quality of preschool education.

In this respect, UNICEF supported the design of institutional policies for the Ministry of Health's Mother- and Child-Friendly Units Initiative, building the capacities of the quality teams of five SILAIS for the implementation of improvement plans aimed at reducing neonatal mortality, and the training of community leaders for implementation of the 'kangaroo family' method.

To reduce lost opportunities and provide comprehensive services, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health in updating the community information system, training 300 community leaders from 186 family and community health teams in the use of community referral instruments and mechanisms, ensuring coordination among the different service network levels.

UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Health in strengthening the comprehensive response to Zika. A total of 2,161 (88 percent) of the children are receiving follow-up from multidisciplinary teams trained in the application of the norms; and a network of 2,841 adolescents trained in the prevention of Zika was created in seven prioritized SILAIS: Carazo, Estelí, Jinotega, Las Minas, Nueva Segovia, Madriz and Managua.

Meanwhile, to ensure the quality of care and timely diagnosis, a guide for surveillance of the congenital syndrome associated with infection by the Zika virus was produced, the Nicaraguan Congenital Malformations Registry was strengthened and expanded, technical capacities were generated for the registration and evaluation of the Zika indicators from the country's 19 SILAIS, and community leaders were trained on counselling to support families and follow-up on all children with congenital malformations, whether associated with Zika or not.

With UNICEF support, the Ministry of Health implemented communication plans in four communities of the departments of Chontales and Nueva Segovia, with the following results: 100 per cent of breastfeeding mothers are providing exclusive breastfeeding to babies 0–6 months old; 75 percent of family members are supporting the breastfeeding women; 80 per cent of the pregnant women attending prenatal check-ups in the first three months request the HIV test; and 100 per cent of women who have recently given birth are taking vitamins and folic acid.

In addition, a diploma course was held on communication for social and behaviour change with the participation of 50 technicians from the 19 SILAIS and communication officers from United Nations agencies (World Food Programme, United Nations Population Fund, International Organization for Migration and World Health Organization/PanAmerican Health Organization), while training was also given to 30 technicians from six non-governmental organizations and the United States Agency for International Development who are working on Zika. The Ministry of Health requested technical support from UNICEF for the institutionalization of C4D as part of the Family and Community Health Model prevention component.

With UNICEF support, the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children implemented the curriculum for 0- to 3-year-olds in the framework of the family community modality; developed methodological, theoretical and practical quality attention competencies among educational agents; and created an inter-institutional network among the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children, Ministry of Health, the Nicaraguan Municipal Development Institute and municipal mayor's offices for the follow-up and technical monitoring of child development indicators in the Child Development Centres at the national level.

UNICEF helped the Ministry of Education improve the quality of preschool-level education. In this respect, 3,350 preschool teachers from across the country – with an emphasis on those from the Caribbean Coast – were provided with updated educational materials and trained on the implementation of regular and multi-level preschool programmes. It also contributed to the training of 83 school directors and pedagogical advisers on a new comprehensive Child Development Evaluation System that includes cognitive areas, executive function, socio-affective development, and physical and motor development.

At the national level, teachers and municipal technicians were trained on developing 'meetings with parents' to foster a culture of prevention of violence, promotion of values, and the care and protection of children.

Under the leadership of both Caribbean Coast Secretariats and with the participation of 12 directors, 100 teachers and 100 parents, culturally adapted guides for the promotion of new masculinities and experiment-based learning were produced as complementary tools for preschool education.

Based on the results of the assessment of the situation of preschools, the North Caribbean Coast Education Secretariat and UNICEF prepared a proposal for an early education diploma course; 36 preschool educators from indigenous communities in the North Caribbean Coast Region were trained on class planning, evaluation and the concept of inclusive education; and the water and sanitation conditions of nine preschool environments (eight in Bluefields and one in Puerto Cabezas) were improved, adapting them to the needs of the 459 children.

UNICEF continued accompanying the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government Health Secretariat in developing pilots for the following projects: the elimination of under-registration; TeleSalud; and ToyContigo. These pilots allowed: (i) the interconnection of the Laguna de Perlas Mayor's Office and the Central Registry; (ii) the automated registration of 131 infants and 38 children under 7 years old; (iii) the production of action plans in 18 communities of Laguna de Perlas; and (iv) 1,200 pregnant women to receive text messages on caring for their pregnancy and their newborn baby. These 'pilots' were presented at the International Forum of Medicine Faculties of Central America and the Caribbean.

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 early childhood development services (health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, birth registration and preschool education).

Analytical statement of progress

The neonatal mortality and asphyxia rates were significantly reduced in the municipalities of Mozonte, Mulukuku, Pantasma, Rosita, San Jose de Bocay and Waspan through the expansion and training of 244 doctors and nurses from the family and community health teams and comprehensive intercultural health groups in relation to the kangaroo family strategy, Monitoring and Control of Growth and Development, and the reorganization of 47 Early Stimulation Wards in the SILAIS corresponding to Las Minas, the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region, Nueva Segovia, Madriz and the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region.

In addition, the guidelines for the Community Information System and its application were updated, including the production of instruments for community monitoring and reporting; training of the SILAIS personnel and community agents; and incorporation of an integrated child services package, including vaccines. UNICEF gave the Community Information System norms and its community instruments to 2,000 Family and Community Health Teams nationally.

As a result of the response to the Zika epidemic, 118 children with microcephaly and/or Congenital Zika Syndrome were cared for by multidisciplinary teams in primary-level care units, social security clinics and private clinics. A total of 694 health workers and 28 heads of the Everyone with Voice programme were trained on the Community Based Rehabilitation guides for caring for children under 6 years old with disabilities. The training was extended to 1,470 community leaders who were sensitized on the importance of providing counselling to support the families.

UNICEF established an alliance model among the Institute of Nutrition for Central America and Panama/Pan-American Health Organization and the Inter-American Development Bank to improve breastfeeding coverages and the nutritional situation by strengthening the institutional policy framework.

UNICEF supported the dissemination of the Ministry of Education's educational community counselling strategy, which in conjunction with Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children is promoting a culture of peace and harmony with the participation of the educational community and the community in general. In the Caribbean Coast region, child-rearing guides were developed with a positive masculinities approach, promoting tolerance, acceptance of diversity and positive relationships between the genders.

Through the TeleSalud 'pilot', C4D improved the dialogue among duty bearers and rights holders in 18 communities of the municipality of Laguna de Perlas through four Analysis and Reflection Days.

Through the implementation of the pilot for the elimination of under-registration, the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government achieved an alliance to interconnect the Laguna de Perlas municipal mayor's office and the Central Registry to automate registry and train community health workers on the importance of registration. This resulted in 131 children under 7 years old being registered through mobile brigades and 38 being registered with the accompaniment of community health workers.

OUTPUT 2 By 2017, municipal, regional and national cross-sectorial teams of the Programme Amor have articulated capacity for situation analysis, planning and results monitoring of early childhood development.

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF contributed to the training of 83 school directors and pedagogical advisers on a new comprehensive Child Development Evaluation System for children of preschool age, including cognitive areas, executive function, socio-affective development and fine motor skills. Likewise, accompaniment was provided for the evaluation of knowledge, skills, and scientific and practical values through accompaniment visits and interactions with the educational community and the families to promote the continuation of learning at home.

With support from UNICEF, the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children scaled up to the national level the Strategy for Comprehensive Training of Early Childhood Educators with a Positive Masculinity Approach in the framework of the family-community modality. Through the training of 396 educational agents from 146 Child Development Centres, the Comprehensive Training Curriculum for 0–3 years was implemented. Meanwhile, 762 early childhood educators from across the country were trained so that children can receive quality education at the right time and in healthier, affectionate and cognitively interesting environments where they are respected as subjects with rights. A network was also established with 30 technical liaisons for the follow-up of quality indicators in the Child Development Centres.

In addition, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health in the training of 42 members of 14 management teams from four SILAISs on monitoring and analysis of indicators and they then trained 523 workers from 174 Family and Community Health Teams at the municipal level. A total of 38 national facilitators, 500 health workers and 700 community resources were also trained on the application of the Community Information System and the community vaccination booklet for community monitoring of immunization and disabilities.

To guarantee timely care for and the follow-up of children with disabilities, including hypothyroidism, UNICEF supported the implementation and national-level expansion of the Nicaraguan Congenital Malformations Registry, training 340 health workers and strengthening the link between hospitals and health units. The heads of health services and the technical teams for Comprehensive Care for Women, Children and Adolescents from the country's 17 SILAIS and the two Autonomous Regions have acquired competences for the follow-up, registration and evaluation of the Zika indicators, as well as triangulation and linkage with other information systems (Nicaraguan Congenital Malformations Registry, Community Information System, administrative records) to improve the follow-up of pregnant women and children.

UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Health, in compliance with the recommendations of the elimination of mother-to-child transmission pre-validation mission: at the national level, the databases of the Comprehensive HIV Epidemiological Surveillance System were updated, ensuring monitoring of the epidemic and of elimination of mother-to-child transmission indicators at the local level by 55 multidisciplinary teams. The elimination normative framework, diagnosis flowcharts and care for exposed newborns were also updated.

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

UNICEF Nicaragua has contributed to promoting the educational community's participation with a leading role in improving the quality of education, as established in the national policies, through support for the different organized forms and spaces of participation created for this end. Thus, for example, it helped strengthen the educational community counselling strategy by training its structures in all the municipalities on issues such as promoting a culture of peace and family harmony, violence prevention, psychosocial support for members of the educational community, and the promotion of values.

Particularly in the Caribbean Coast, support was provided for the development of the secondary school student organization, highlighting its role in facilitating learning and recreation spaces that help enrich the educational processes. Through technical and financial support, the student organization developed projection and strengthening events through its structures in the region, mobilizing adolescents around sports, cultural and civic education activities. As a result of its projection, the student organization has become a key actor in the development of initiatives that involve adolescents and are being promoted by regional government bodies such as the Youth, Women's and Education Secretariats.

Help has also been provided countrywide for the development of technical and pedagogical capacities among teachers at the preschool and primary school levels in areas of vital importance that have a direct impact on school retention and promotion rates. The teachers have been trained on the suitable management of the preschool programmes and curriculum, on issues related to the transition from preschool to first grade, on the methodology for teaching reading and writing, and on improving the quality of the educational modalities for the rural population, such as multi-grade and primary and secondary school distance learning in the countryside. The Ministry of Education has also received help in strengthening national teacher training strategies, such as: the cost-effective, self-training methodology known as 'Open Class', which promotes both self-training and the enhancement of knowledge and teaching experience in the classroom and at school; the directors' school; and inter-learning pedagogical meetings, particularly in the Caribbean Coast regions.

The participation of the educational community, particularly parents and students, has been especially important with regard to the preparation of school safety plans, the development of their emergency response capacities, and actions aimed at raising awareness of and educating about the effects of climate change. In the Caribbean region, UNICEF supported the establishment, training and equipping of student brigades and parent committees for tasks such as the maintenance and safe provision of water and sanitation, and directing personal and environmental hygiene actions, thus contributing to healthier and safer environments.

At the level of the structures corresponding to the Ministry of Education and the Caribbean Coast Education Secretariats, UNICEF contributed to the development of the personnel's technical capacities to improve the educational offer. Both national-level pedagogical advisers and those at the Ministry of Education departmental and municipal levels from the Educational Community Counselling Section and the Technical Disasters Liaison Unit received training to promote the school safety strategy. The training of school directors has also been supported through a diploma course that prepares them for their territorial-level school management role, which has a direct impact on the quality of the education the children receive. The Education Secretariats' technical teams have also participated in training processes on the different issues that UNICEF is supporting in order to contribute to the ownership of the national strategies that ensure greater educational quality.

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 a focus on adaptation to climate change.

Analytical statement of progress

UNICEF Nicaragua contributed to the training of at least 164 promoters of the educational community counselling committees from all the country's municipalities. These training sessions were on a broad range of issues that prepare them to organize or follow up on the implementation of the school safety strategy in school centres. It is estimated that the cascade training done by these promoters is reaching nearly 160,000 members of the educational community counselling committees, including parents, primary and secondary students, and teachers. The year's trainings included the promotion of values; psychosocial support for children and their families in stressful or emergency situations; the prevention of bullying, sexual abuse and adolescent pregnancy; and innovation for health care in education. In the Caribbean Coast region, UNICEF supported territorial training processes for 790 members of the educational communities in 11 municipalities with a high prevalence of school and community violence.

In the Caribbean region, UNICEF also supported the development of the secondary student organization as a Ministry of Education strategy to ensure the development of capacities and life skills through the organized participation of students. In this respect, it was possible to mobilize nearly 800 students in four prioritized municipalities in relation to actions such as sports leagues, science and cultural competitions, and other activities appropriate for adolescents. The students' mobilization significantly contributed to the organization's projection in the region and to the reactivation of its regional and municipal structure.

The organization and training of nine school sanitation brigades has also been promoted on the topics of safe water, hygiene and environmental sanitation, along with the promotion of spaces in which children can express their ideas, analyse their environment and contribute to the search for solutions. The brigades are made up of 91 members of the educational community (47 of them female). In addition, 133 members (92 of them women) of the parent committees in 19 schools of Puerto Cabezas were trained on the operation and maintenance of the school hydro-sanitary infrastructure and have their own maintenance plans. Each committee was given a small basic toolkit to facilitate its work.

A set of 10 booklets was produced on the operation and maintenance of sustainable school hydro-sanitary infrastructure. This tool is also available to teaching staff, pedagogical advisers, school infrastructure technicians, and municipal water and sanitation technicians.

In addition, the capacities of 20 Caribbean Coast educational communities counselling committees with a high level of vulnerability were strengthened through training, the updating of risk maps and disaster reduction plans, and simulation exercises in which 331 students participated (191 of them girls).

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

Analytical statement of progress

At the preschool level, some 1,200 teachers mainly in the Caribbean region were trained on the use of programmes and the curriculum, as well as strategies for the transition to first grade; 440 teachers were trained on the logical thinking methodology; and 3,350 teachers received the programme package and curricular framework for performing their work. At least 150 teachers from 17 schools, 40 parents and 11 pedagogical advisers participated in the production of two activity guides, one that promoted experience-based learning and the other promoting new masculinities. These tools will complement the preschool programmes in the Caribbean region.

At the primary education level, 250 teachers and 50 pedagogical advisers were trained nationally on the multi-grade modality, while 300 teachers from the distance learning modality for the countryside were trained on pedagogical methodologies focused on problem solving, which is the main methodology that the Ministry of Education is promoting to generate critical and investigative thinking. A teachers' movement (80 teachers in the municipalities of Bluefields and Laguna de Perlas in the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region) was also established for the incorporation of a scientific method into their classes, reaching out to approximately 3,000 students. Meanwhile, 137 pedagogical advisers and teachers (101 of them women) from the Civics, Vocational Technical Orientation and Natural Sciences subjects were trained on life skills-based hygiene education and education on climate change and the environment.

For the second consecutive year, 19 non-certified primary school teachers have taken the teacher training course at the October 8th Teacher Training School in Bluefields (South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region) as part of a teacher training pilot project stressing the follow-up of students in the classroom. This experience generated a report of lessons learned and recommendations that can be used for reviewing the work of the country's teacher training schools.

With the purpose of improving pedagogical capacities, support was provided to the Ministry of Education and the North and South Caribbean Coast Education Secretariats to disseminate the 'Open Class' methodology in which teachers from each school strengthen their knowledge and experiences to develop team working capacities and improve their teaching practices. This involved 150 teachers from 10 schools in threemunicipalities of the Caribbean regions. The monthly inter-learning pedagogical meetings were also strengthened to make them more effective in addressing issues of interest to teachers. This effort reached nearly 3,000 Caribbean Coast teachers.

In the context of environmental education, educational activity guides were developed in the preschool, primary and secondary modalities for the control and elimination of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, with participation from multidisciplinary teams made up of teachers; pedagogical advisers; water, sanitation and hygiene technicians; and Health Ministry personnel. In addition, 3,543 schoolchildren (1,834 of them girls) from 14 schools in 2 Caribbean Coast municipalities now have access to drinking water, hand-washing points and sanitary units in line with quality standards. This was done with climate change, equity and inclusion focuses. This infrastructure also benefits 116 teachers (93 of them women) who work in these schools.

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

In the framework of fostering South-South cooperation, UNICEF supported the development of competences of 50 professionals from the Ministry of Education technical team through their participation in forums and congresses for which UNICEF contributed international experts from the Latin American region (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico) and Spain in the areas of, among others: innovation and creativity for comprehensive and quality education; psychosocial support in stressful and emergency situations; early warning for the prevention of violence in all its forms; and the promotion of innovation for health care in education.

In relation to strengthening the capacities of middle-management officials to improve school management in the territories, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education's efforts to develop managerial and leadership capacities among 1,000 school principals and deputies through the provision of five modules that include the subjects of values and national identity, investigation-action, pedagogical leadership, educational management and administration, and educational planning. Particularly in the preschool education subsystem, UNICEF contributed to the training of at least 83 school directors countrywide who were updated on the comprehensive child development evaluation system during its pilot stage. The Ministry of Education is developing this tool to evaluate child development in the cognitive, psycho-affective and physical environment areas.

With the aim of providing the Caribbean Coast Education Secretariats with a tool that helps them distance-monitor the education situation in remote rural communities, in 2017 UNICEF supported the development of a real-time monitoring system to improve school management in 29 schools from four Caribbean Coast municipalities. A total of 276 members of educational communities – both students and parents – participated in this innovative initiative, displaying their interest in and commitment to helping reduce teacher absenteeism, which has been identified as the main problem affecting students in the teaching and learning process.

UNICEF also helped update the school water, sanitation and hygiene inventory in the municipalities of Desembocadura de Rio Grande and El Tortuguero in the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region. This inventory is an instrument for taking informed decisions as it allows the identification of gaps, prioritization of intervention areas and planning of actions.

In addition, UNICEF collaborated with the Ministry of Education to develop annual evaluation processes with the aim of identifying achievements and lessons learned, as well as planning actions for the new year in the areas of preschool and educational community counselling.

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

A total of 9,716 adolescents nationwide developed skills for the prevention of violence through the analysis of gender social norms and practices, participation in the design of solutions to problems affecting their community, the preparation of their life plans and entrepreneurship for social inclusion.

To this end, UNICEF supported the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children in its violence prevention efforts through strengthening the parental skills of 6,019 mothers and fathers (5,968 women, 51 men) in 12 of the 17 departments of the country. In addition, 1,240

children (489 girls, 751 boys) at social risk were attended by the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children's Interest Groups' methodology, contributing for them to remain in school and successfully approve the academic year. Meanwhile, the specialized care model for child victims of sexual abuse continued to be strengthened, attending to 586 children countrywide.

In collaboration with the National Police, 7,422 adolescents and youths (4,899 male, 2,523 female) at social risk enhanced their skills for the prevention of violence, drug consumption and the use of arms through community intervention plans based on play, sports and recreational activities.

In alliance with the judicial branch, a pilot project was implemented for the design of a creative and systemic pedagogy for the Specialized Juvenile Penal Justice System, with the participation of 75 adolescents (68 boys, 07 girls) in conflict with the law.

In cooperation with the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government, 80 adolescents (including 19 girls) from different ethnic groups, who were outside the school system, behind with their studies and/or in conflict with the law, successfully finished one of three vocational training courses held on building and plumbing with a climate change focus. In addition, 313 excluded children led the design and implementation of community social projects in the framework of the Bluefields Indian and Caribbean University Innovation Laboratory.

The institutions in charge of preventing violence against children improved their coordination and strengthened their capacities in the areas of gender; violence prevention strategies; and care to victims of sexual abuse and to adolescents at social risk and in conflict with the law.

To achieve this result, UNICEF supported the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children in strengthening its programmes for preventing and responding to violence against children. It contributed to improve capacities related to the school values strategy, early warning *and* counselling. Meanwhile, the technical capacities of officials responsible for protecting child victims of violence were strengthened in relation to the implementation of the Psychosocial Care Model.

The Country Office collaborated with the National Police to enhance the model for attending to victims through the training of investigators and heads of sectors on the process of investigating crimes against women, adolescents and children in four municipalities. Alongside the technical training, an awareness-raising process was also implemented for the application of a gender perspective. The National Police also led the process of reactivating the Interinstitutional Violence Commissions, which provide a coordination arena where cases of gender-based violence are followed up in four municipalities and at the national level.

Support was provided for the judicial branch's efforts related to the administration of justice with a gender perspective and the promotion of human rights of vulnerable populations, such as women and children. In this respect, coordination with the Technical Gender Secretariat and the Institute of Higher Judicial Studies saw the development of a refresher course on 'Rights of Children, the Family and Violence Prevention'.

Assistance was also provided to the Specialized Juvenile Penal Justice System for the development of a new pedagogy for the application and follow-up of penal measures.

With UNICEF support, the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government, the

Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children and the National Assembly led processes linked to strengthening capacities for the development of systems that collect and analyse child-related data and indicators. These processes include the consultation and participation of adolescents to produce the national adolescent pregnancy prevention policy and implementation of the Regional Policy and Strategy for Children and Adolescents in the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region.

In this framework, the National Assembly received technical and financial assistance from UNICEF on issues related to the SDGs and public investment in children. UNICEF also continued supporting the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children in strengthening data management through the training of 192 officials on the planning cycle of the Nicaraguan Government, the management and follow-up tools, and the administrative registration system, known as the Single Protagonist Registry. To ensure institutional anchorage, the Single Protagonist Registry System User's Manual was updated and validated in the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children's departmental offices.

The Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children also collected and analysed inputs for the national adolescent pregnancy prevention policy, for which 18 workshops were held (one per department and one for the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region) with the participation of 595 stakeholders (42 percent of them adolescents). The Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children finalized the systematization of the process, which included the risk and protection factors, along with the adolescents' demands on education, health and sexuality.

Under the coordination of the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government Planning Secretariat, the Information and Knowledge Management System started to operate through a computer platform. The system has a baseline for all of its indicators and the updated information is published on the regional government's webpage.

The South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government Secretariat for Women, Children and Adolescents strengthened the process for disseminating and implementing the Regional Policy and Strategy for Children and Adolescents. Also, following a piloting process the previous year, the implementation of the recreation and socialization strategy was expanded to five of the region's municipalities.

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

The Country Office supported the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children violence prevention efforts through strengthening the parenting skills of 6,019 parents (5,968 women, 51 men) in 12 departments of the country. In addition, 1,240 children (489 girls, 751 boys) at social risk were attended by the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children's Interest Groups' methodology, contributing for them to remain in school and successfully approve the academic year.

UNICEF continued supporting the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children in enhancing the specialized care model for child victims of sexual abuse, attending to 586 children nationwide. This model enables emotional stabilization and the development of tools for resilience. The families' capacities to support their children's recovery were also strengthened.

With UNICEF support, the National Police reinforced the skills of 7,422 adolescents and youths at social risk (4,899 male, 2,523 female) for the prevention of violence, drug consumption and the use of small arms through community intervention plans in Bilwi, San Lucas, Somoto and Terrabona. The plans are based on play, sports and recreational activities led by officials from the National Police Youth Affairs Directorate.

The judicial branch developed a pilot project for the design of a creative and systemic pedagogy for the Specialized Juvenile Penal Justice System with the active participation of 75 adolescents (68 boys, 7 girls) in conflict with the law from Bilwi, Bluefields, Managua, Matagalpa and Siuna. This educational model supports adolescents in conflict with the law to connect with their emotions, increase their self-knowledge and strengthen their capacity to deal with life through dance, play, art and theatre.

In alliance with the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government, 80 adolescents (19 of them girls) from different ethnic groups of the Caribbean Coast region, who were outside of the school system, behind with their schooling and/or in conflict with the law, have successfully completed one of three vocational training courses held on building and plumbing with a climate change focus. The course's impact on the community includes the rehabilitation of sanitary units in two schools, benefiting 457 students (207 of them girls). Also, 11 micro-businesses offering building and plumbing services were created, made up of people who finished the courses. Meanwhile, the Network of Caribbean Coast Youths and Adolescents has been organized and currently consists of 56 adolescents (23 of them girls). It has been legally established, has a workplan and coordinates training activities with public institutions and civil society organizations.

In addition, 313 children from the RACCS, living in conditions of exclusion, took leadership in the implementation of activities from the Bluefields Indian and Caribbean University Innovation Laboratory that have focused on methodologies based on social innovation and open innovation, which allow children to develop competences such as teamwork, assertive communication, analysis and critical thinking. These life skills are essential tools for facilitating constructive dialogue and relations in their communities. They also strengthen the children's capacity to express their problems and exercise their rights.

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

Analytical statement of progress

UNICEF Nicaragua supported the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children in strengthening its programmes for preventing and responding to violence against children by enhancing the capacities of: (i) 129 Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children and Ministry of Education counsellors (107 women, 22 men) from 12 departments (71 per cent), who were trained for the implementation of the 'values school' (family strengthening strategy). Moreover, 47 volunteer counsellors from Jinotega and Matagalpa were reactivated and facilitated workshops with families in their territories; (ii) 93 technicians from the Restoration Directorate (83 women, 10 men) were trained on the use of official tools such as psychosocial reports, resolute orders and administrative decisions; (iii) eight psychologists from the Psychosocial Care Directorate were trained on the application of seven new work instruments employing a 'learning-by-doing' methodology; and (iv) 63 officials (49 women, 14 men) received

training to deal with burn-out syndrome and stress caused by work situations.

UNICEF also supported the National Police in strengthening the model for providing care to victims through the training of 160 investigators and sector heads (96 men, 64 women) on the process of investigating crimes against women and children in four municipalities. The officers improved their investigation techniques: single interview, anticipated evidence, visual inspection, and chain of custody. Alongside the technical training, an awareness-building process was conducted for the application of a gender perspective. The National Police also led the process of reactivating the Interinstitutional Violence Commissions, a coordination space in which cases of gender-based violence are followed up on in four municipalities and nationally.

UNICEF supported the judicial branch's efforts in the administration of justice with a gender perspective and the promotion of the human rights of vulnerable populations such as women and children. In this respect, a refresher course on 'Child and Family Rights and Violence Prevention' was designed and implemented in coordination with the Technical Gender Secretariat and the Institute of Higher Judicial Studies. In total, 133 local judges (82 women, 51 men) who attend to 108 (71 per cent) municipalities graduated from this first running of the course. At the same time, reader-friendly booklets were produced on how to recognize gender violence and guide families with respect to the path for accessing justice. Using these booklets, the judges will train 5,000 facilitators from across the country.

UNICEF supported the Specialized Juvenile Penal Justice System in developing a new pedagogy for the application and follow up of penal measures. This creative and systemic pedagogy with ludic methodologies was piloted in five Special Juvenile Courts (Bilwi, Bluefields, Managua, Matagalpa and Siuna,). A total of 21 technicians participated in its development and a guide was produced as an instrument to scale the pedagogy up to the national level next year. As a sustainability measure, the Supreme Court of Justice's Technical Office for the Follow Up of the Juvenile Penal System – Supreme Court of Justice's Technical Office for the Follow Up of the Juvenile Penal System has managed to get the workshops accredited by the Institute of Higher Judicial Studies, with the technicians receiving official diploma course-level certification.

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 a focus on results-based management.

Analytical statement of progress

The National Assembly received technical assistance on issues related to the SDGs and public investment for children. In this regard, the Country Office contributed to strengthening the capacities of 80 technicians on the SDGs and the national budget, with an emphasis on child rights. This advance opens up the possibility of developing stronger cooperation with the legislative branch to work in greater depth on investment for children and strengthening the legal framework for child rights.

UNICEF Nicaragua continued supporting the Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children in strengthening data management through the training of 192 officials on the Government's planning cycle, management and follow-up tools, and the administrative registry system (the Single Protagonist Registry). To ensure institutional anchorage, the User's Guide for the Single Protagonist Registry System was updated and validated in departmental offices.

The Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children also requested UNICEF's accompaniment for the collection and analysis of inputs on adolescent pregnancy. In this respect, 18 workshops were held (one per department and one for the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region) with the participation of 595 stakeholders (42 per cent of them adolescents). The adolescents are from rural areas, are both inside and outside of the school system, and some were already mothers or fathers. The participation of mothers, fathers and Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health officials was also achieved. The plurality of actors allowed genuine inputs to be collected. The Ministry of the Family, Adolescents and Children finalized the systematization of the process, which included risk and protection factors, as well as adolescent demands on education, health and sexuality.

Under the coordination of the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government Planning Secretariat, the Information and Knowledge Management System started operating through an informatic platform. To this end, 12 technicians from the Planning Secretariat were trained on how to feed the system. The Information and Knowledge Management System has a baseline for all its indicators and updated information is published on the system webpage. This device gives all actors the opportunity to follow the development of the child-related indicators in the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region in order to design projects, programmes and public policies based on evidence.

The South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government Secretariat for Women, Children and Adolescents strengthened the process of disseminating and implementing the Regional Policy and Strategy for Children and Adolescents. A total of 424 children increased their knowledge of the policy thanks to their participation in 'Knowledge Leagues' in South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government communities. Also, following a pilot process the previous year, the implementation of the recreation and socialization strategy was extended to five municipalities in the region. This contemplated the participation of 500 children.

The South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government Health Secretariat, with technical and financial support from UNICEF and with technical advisory from The United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention, continued to implement the Pilot Surveillance System of injuries caused by violence against children in Bluefields. For this, an inter-institutional alliance was created with the participation of the main institutions working on violence prevention and care. The first report from the system revealed that the majority of cases of violence relates to sexual abuse against girls and adolescent women.

Document centre

Evaluation and research

Title	Sequence number	Type of report
Evaluation of UNICEF and South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Regional Government innovation pilot projects.	2017/001	Evaluation

Other publications

Title
Guías Nacionales para la prevención materno infantil del VIH

Manual del Sistema de Información Comunitaria
Manual de Tamizaje neonatal
Manual de Vigilancia y Promoción del Crecimiento y Desarrollo y sus instrumentos de seguimiento.
Manual: 'Familia Canguro'
AIEPI Hospitalario
Guía de Vigilancia del Síndrome congénito asociado al Zika
Video: Resumen del IV Foro sobre el Uso Creativo y Seguro de Internet
Video: Exposición sobre investigación realizada a jóvenes universitarios en 11 universidades sobre el Uso de Internet
Video: Presentación sobre Uso seguro y responsable de las Tecnologías de la Comunicación e Información
Video: Presentación sobre Consulta Regional sobre Acoso y Ciberacoso
Video: Lanzamiento de la Estrategia de Comunicación para la Prevención del Abuso sexual contra la niñez
Video: Cuidado y apoyo de las familias para la estimulación de los bebés
Video: Presentación sobre La transición de los ODM a los ODS
Video: Taller introductorio agenda 2030. Monitoreo de los Indicadores en los ODS, presentación FAO
Video: Una mirada sistémica y de derechos para contar historias de violencia contra la niñez
12 versiones de afiches
Folleto Las Coplas de Rita: Cómo proteger nuestro cuerpo
Folleto: Con las medidas de autocuidado puedo prevenir el abuso sexual
Folleto: Guía para Padres para la prevención del abuso sexual
Video: Las Coplas de Rita 5: Los secretos bonitos y los secretos
Video: Coplas de Rita 4: Decir NO, huir y pedir ayuda
Video: Las Coplas de Rita 3: Las caricias buenas y las caricias malas
Video: Las Coplas de Rita 2: Video: Las partes del cuerpo
Video: Presentación de las Coplas de Rita.
Spot de TV: Yo me cuido
Spot de TV: Protección de niñas y niños del abuso sexual
Spot de TV: Comunicación protectora
Canción con Alas
Cartilla 2 - Conociendo mis Derechos Constitucionales Cartilla 3 - Métodos de Resolución Alternativa de Conflictos Cartilla 4 - Prevención de Violencia hacia las Mujeres
Documento guía Sistema de vigilancia de lesiones provocadas por violencia en niñas, niños y adolescentes de Bluefields
Manual de Funciones del Oficial de Asuntos Juveniles Policía Nacional de Nicaragua
Convención sobre los derechos del niño
Programa de Educación Inicial (Preescolar) Multinivel
Diplomado: Liderazgo en la Gestión Educativa. Módulo V: Planificación Educativa
Diplomado: Liderazgo en la Gestión Educativa. Módulo IV: Gestión y Administración Educativa
Diplomado: Liderazgo en la Gestión Educativa. Módulo III: Liderazgo Pedagógico
Diplomado: Liderazgo en la Gestión Educativa. Módulo II: Investigación Acción
Diplomado: Liderazgo en la Gestión Educativa. Módulo I: Valores e Identidad Nacional

Diplomado: Liderazgo en la Gestión Educativa. Módulo inicial Gestión y Administración Educativa del Director

Lessons learned

Document type/category	Title
Innovation	A new model for the application of penal measures for adolescents
Lesson Learned	Systematization of the process of deinstitutionalization of children in Nicaragua in the framework of the Love Programme, 2007-2017

Programme documents

Document type	Title	Name
Reviews	Programme Mid-Year Review	Informe RMA_VF.docx