



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
3 January 2023

Original: English
English, French and Spanish only

United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

First regular session 2023

7–10 February 2023

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Country programme document

Costa Rica

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Costa Rica is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$4,250,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$6,765,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period from March 2023 to December 2027.

* E/ICEF/2023/1.

Note: The present document was processed in its entirety by UNICEF.



Programme rationale

1. Costa Rica is an upper-middle-income country and an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) member since 2021. The country has a population of 5.16 million, of which 23 per cent are children and adolescents, and is reaching the end of its demographic dividend with an ageing population and an increase in dependency rates.¹ Remarkable progress has been achieved in the country's human development, due largely to its robust health, education, social protection and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) policies. As the Committee on the Rights of the Child remarked,² the country enjoys a strong policy and legislative framework in support of child rights, but the challenge lies in its full implementation.

2. According to the World Bank, over the past 25 years the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita increased by 85 per cent; yet this increase did not translate into a reduction in social inequities as the Gini coefficient rose from 45.6 in 1997 to 49.3 in 2020. Historical disparities and exclusions persist, mainly affecting indigenous, Afrodescendent and migrant populations residing in rural and border areas and in informal urban settlements.

3. Monetary poverty fluctuates around 25 per cent for the overall population but is higher for children and adolescents (39 per cent). Public indebtedness is high at 68 per cent of GDP, making Costa Rica one of the most indebted countries in Latin America. Income poverty affects 23 per cent of households, with female-headed households being overrepresented, with 41 per cent of non-poor households compared to 48 per cent of all households in poverty, and 51 per cent of those in extreme poverty. The poor have, on average, three years less schooling than the non-poor.³

4. Thirty-four per cent of young people aged 15–24 years were unemployed in the first quarter of 2022, and 17 per cent were neither studying nor employed.⁴ The overall unemployment gap between men and women was 6.5 percentage points (11 versus 17.5 per cent).

5. In 2022, women registered a lower rate of participation in the labour market compared to men (48 versus 71 per cent) and devoted more hours per week on average to unpaid domestic and care work (35.5 versus 13.4 hours).⁵ Family care responsibilities are the main obstacle for young women, especially those in poor households, to continue their education.

6. In recent years, the country has faced several climate-related emergencies. Large- or medium-scale flooding occurs at least twice a year, and droughts regularly affect the Pacific coast. Earthquakes are a latent threat, and volcanic activity is ongoing. Coastal and border areas, as well as informal urban settlements, are particularly affected.

¹ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD welcomes Costa Rica as its 38th Member, <www.oecd.org/costarica/oecd-welcomes-costa-rica-as-its-38th-member.htm>, accessed on 4 November 2022.

² Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations on the Combined 5th and 6th Periodic Reports of Costa Rica, 4 March 2020.

³ National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos, INEC), Households survey, <<https://inec.cr/estadisticas-fuentes/encuestas/encuesta-nacional-hogares>>, accessed on 31 October 2022.

⁴ INEC, Continuous employment survey, 2022, <<https://inec.cr/estadisticas-fuentes/encuestas/encuesta-continua-empleo>>, accessed on 31 October 2022.

⁵ INEC, Continuous employment survey, 2022; Use of time survey, INEC, 2017, <<https://inec.cr/estadisticas-fuentes/encuestas/encuesta-continua-empleo>>, accessed on 4 November 2022.

7. The maternal mortality ratio increased from 18 per 100,000 births in 2013 to 23 per 100,000 births in 2022 and the child mortality rate from 8.05 per 1,000 births in 2014 to 9.28 per 1,000 births in 2022.⁶ As of August 2022, almost 9,000 people had died from complications related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); 25 deaths were of children and adolescents.⁷

8. In the age group 15–17 years, 9 per cent of adolescents were restricted in accessing health services compared to 33 per cent of adolescent migrants.⁸ The percentage of births in the age group 15–19 years decreased from 20 per cent to 12 per cent from 2000 to 2019, with 18 per cent of these adolescent girls experiencing another pregnancy.⁹

9. In Costa Rica, wasting among children and adolescents is 2 per cent, while 20 per cent are overweight and 14 per cent are obese.¹⁰ Only 27 per cent of children under 6 months of age are exclusively breastfed, and 39 per cent are predominantly breastfed.¹¹

10. The prevalence of mental disorders among children and adolescents aged 10–19 years is 13 per cent. In the age cohort 15–19 years, suicide is the fourth leading cause of death globally¹² while, since 2005, it has become the third cause of death in Costa Rica.¹³

11. In education, both access and quality remain key challenges. Since 2018, school cycles have been repeatedly and significantly interrupted owing to strikes and the COVID-19 pandemic, consequently affecting entire cohorts of students who are now lagging in their learning. Only 51 per cent of people aged 25–34 years in Costa Rica have a high school diploma, much less than the OECD average of 84 per cent,¹⁴ and Costa Rica traditionally scores poorly on standardized tests.¹⁵ Seventy-four per cent of students ranked in the two lowest performance levels in reading proficiency.¹⁶ Eighty per cent of students in primary and 60 per cent in secondary school completed their education in the regular time frame.¹⁷

12. There are significant gaps in educational achievement for children and adolescents, with those living in rural areas, living with disabilities and living in

⁶ INEC, Vital statistics, 2022, <<https://inec.cr/estadisticas-fuentes/estadisticas-demograficas>>, accessed on 25 October 2022.

⁷ Ministry of Health, Health Surveillance Directorate, 2022, <www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/index.php/vigilancia-de-la-salud/111-vigilancia-de-la-salud>, accessed on 4 November 2022.

⁸ Ministry of Culture and Youth, Third National Youth Survey, 2018, <<https://cpj.go.cr/tercera-encuesta-nacional-de-juventudes-2018/>>, accessed on 25 October 2022.

⁹ INEC, Vital statistics, 2020 and 2022, <<https://inec.cr/estadisticas-fuentes/estadisticas-demograficas>>, accessed on 4 November 2022.

¹⁰ Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, National School Census of Weight and Height 2016, 2019, <<https://bd.sica.int/index.php/catalog/105>>, accessed on 25 October 2022.

¹¹ INEC, Survey of Women, Children and Adolescents, 2018, <<https://inec.cr/estadisticas-fuentes/encuestas/encuesta-mujeres-ninez-adolescencia-2018>>, accessed on 25 October 2022.

¹² World Health Organization, One in every 100 deaths is due to suicide, <www.who.int/es/news/item/17-06-2021-one-in-100-deaths-is-by-suicide>, accessed on 4 November 2022.

¹³ INEC, Death inquiry system of INEC, 2000–2021.

¹⁴ National Child Welfare Agency, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy and UNICEF, *State of the Rights of Children and Adolescents*, 2022; State of Education Project (Proyecto Estado de la Educación, PEE), *State of Education Report*, 2021, <<https://estadonacion.or.cr/proyectos-estado-de-la-educacion/>>, accessed on 4 November 2022.

¹⁵ PEE, *State of Education Report*, 2021.

¹⁶ Programme for International Student Assessment, OECD, 2015, <www.oecd.org/pisa/aboutpisa/costa-rica-pisa.htm>, accessed on 4 November 2022.

¹⁷ PEE, *State of Education Report*, 2021.

extreme poverty the most left behind. Only 8 per cent of public primary schools offer the complete curriculum. The gap is further exacerbated by the digital divide, which constrains learning, social inclusion and future employability for the most vulnerable. Forty-two per cent of children and adolescents do not have access to a computer nor tablet, and 13 per cent do not have access to Internet.¹⁸ Girls' inclusion in educational environments has improved, especially regarding access, parity in enrolment and academic performance.¹⁹

13. Regarding access to early childhood care and learning opportunities, only 14.6 per cent of children aged 36–47 months attend an early childhood education programme, rising to 44.2 per cent for children aged 36–59 months. There is a 11.3 percentage point gap between the poorest and the wealthiest quintile (40.9 versus 52.2 per cent).²⁰

14. Nineteen per cent of educational centres do not have access to water and 10 per cent lack electricity.²¹ Many remain inaccessible for students with disabilities. There are 874 educational centres with sanitary sanctions owing to inadequate sanitary facilities, 80 per cent of which are primary schools.²²

15. Seventy per cent of wastewater nationwide lacks treatment. The prevalent septic tanks generate a risk of pollution, especially in coastal and urban areas.²³

16. In 2021, 84,496 complaints on threats or violations of children's rights were received by the National Child Welfare Agency; 24 per cent were cases of physical and psychological violence, 22 per cent violence due to negligence and 19 per cent due to family conflicts.²⁴ Twenty-four per cent of parents and caregivers consider physical punishment a proper way to educate, contributing to 49 per cent of children aged 1–14 years being victims of violent discipline methods.²⁵

17. In 2018, over 12,000 young children and adolescents were reported to have suffered a sexual crime, with females disproportionately affected.²⁶ The number of criminal cases for child rape and qualified rape has gone up in recent years.²⁷ Commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents increased by 44 per cent in 2020 compared to 2019.

18. The prevalence of school bullying in Costa Rica is the second highest in the region²⁸ and has been increasing in frequency and severity, resulting in school exclusion and other educational complications for students. Around 78.8 per cent of children and adolescents aged 9–17 years use the Internet daily and are thus potentially exposed to online violence.

¹⁸ INEC, Households survey, 2021.

¹⁹ National Women's Institute, Poverty in Costa Rica: the situation of women, 2019, <www.inamu.go.cr/pobreza-en-costa-rica-la-situacion-de-las-mujeres>, accessed on 4 November 2022.

²⁰ INEC, Survey of Women, Children and Adolescents; UNICEF multiple indicator cluster survey round 6 (MICS-6), 2018.

²¹ PEE, *State of Education Report*, 2021.

²² Ibid.

²³ Water Directorate, National Wastewater Sanitation Policy, 2017, <<https://da.go.cr/saneamiento-de-aguas-residuales/>>, accessed on 4 November 2022.

²⁴ National Child Welfare Agency, 2021.

²⁵ INEC, Survey of Women, Children and Adolescents, 2018.

²⁶ Gender Observatory of the Judiciary, 2018, <<https://observatoriodegenero.poder-judicial.go.cr/>>, accessed on 4 November 2022.

²⁷ National Women's Institute, 2019.

²⁸ OECD, Programme for International Student Assessment, 2015.

19. The share of women reporting to have started their sexual life before the age of 16 years rose from 23 per cent in 2010 to 27 per cent in 2016.²⁹ In 2020, 5 per cent of births were to girls aged 13 and 14 years, 88 per cent of these births were to an “undeclared father”.

20. In 2018, 15 per cent of children aged 12–14 years participated in economic activities (for less than 14 hours per week), while this figure rose to 20 per cent of children aged 15–17 years (for less than 43 hours per week).³⁰

21. There are 13,170 children and adolescents without parental care, of which 2,134 are in shelters and/or residential care and 11,036 are in family foster care.³¹

22. Significant challenges persist in the restorative justice system concerning socio-emotional health, educational integration and drug use. Sixty-five per cent of adolescents in conflict with the law are addicted to drugs.³²

23. In 2022, there were 62,455 migrant children formally enrolled in schools. The main problems they face are infectious diseases, insecurity, sexual and gender-based violence, xenophobia and discrimination, school bullying, lack of learning opportunities, less access to public services and economic insufficiency. Migrant children and adolescents travelling to or through Costa Rica are exposed to exploitation, mistreatment, sexual abuse, gender-based violence and exploitation, human trafficking and smuggling.

24. The lessons learned from the previous country programme include the need to evolve from a ‘modelling’ to a ‘scaling-up and inclusion’ approach; ensure more robust gender-transformative programming; enhance partnerships with the private sector and key leaders from Afrodescendent, migrant and indigenous communities; and foster alliances with persons with disabilities and women’s organizations.

25. Recommendations derived from the evaluation of the country programme, 2018–February 2023 include the need to:

- (a) strengthen monitoring and evaluation to estimate UNICEF contribution at all levels;
- (b) establish a direct relationship between the country programme and the national planning system;
- (c) build and monitor the theory of change of the new country programme;
- (d) propose tangible and achievable results according to the country office’s technical, financial and human capacities.

Programme priorities and partnerships

26. The country programme supports all four outcomes of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Costa Rica, 2023–2027, which focuses on the reduction of inequalities. It contributes to the country’s efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is aligned with the national mandate on the rights of children and adolescents.

27. The country programme is based on the principles of human rights, equity and environmental sustainability. It focuses on reducing inequalities related to gender,

²⁹ Ministry of Health, Sexual Reproductive Health Survey, 2016, <[VSRSP-AENSSSR_CR10.pdf](#)>, accessed on 4 November 2022.

³⁰ INEC, Survey of Women, Children and Adolescents, 2018; MICS-6, 2018.

³¹ National Child Welfare Agency, 2022.

³² Alcoholism and Drug Dependency Institute and the Office of Restorative Justice of the Judiciary System, 2017, <<https://www.iafa.go.cr/investigacion/>>, accessed on 4 November 2022.

ethnicity, place of residence, migration or disability status, as well as exposure to environmental and climate risks. It will contribute towards reducing historical gender, social and territorial inequities. Children and families, especially women and adolescent mothers, will live in safer environments, exercising their rights, accessing strengthened and expanded social services and improved social investment, with the support of the private sector and civil society, prioritizing the most vulnerable children and adolescents, especially in the 25 most excluded cantons. The United Nations cooperation will also be oriented towards those cantons for a more integrated, coherent and coordinated approach across territories.

28. To achieve this vision, children from 0 to 5 years of age will benefit from comprehensive childcare and policies that ensure they develop to their full potential. The aim is that children, adolescents and female heads of households living in monetary and multidimensional poverty will access quality services and benefit from a robust social protection system equipped to reduce poverty. Adolescents, young people and female heads of households will complete their secondary education; improve their digital capacities; make informed decisions about their health; access vocational training and decent jobs; and actively participate in decisions that affect their lives. Children and adolescents will grow up in a society with shock-resilient systems that protect them and guarantee their rights.

29. In line with the national priorities and UNSDCF, and based on evidence drawn from a highly participatory formulation process, the country programme will have four programmatic components in addition to the programme effectiveness pillar:

- (a) Health, nutrition, environment and sanitation
- (b) Early childhood development and education
- (c) Child protection
- (d) Social protection and child poverty.

30. Convergence and intersectionality are cornerstones of the country programme. The four programme components are interlinked, covering all age groups and mutually reinforcing results for children. Humanitarian and emergency dimensions are mainstreamed across all components and interventions.

31. The country programme's key strategies are as follows: a gender-transformative approach; public advocacy, communication and partnerships, including with the private sector; programmatic convergence and coherence; social and behavioural change and social accountability; evidence generation; capacity strengthening; volunteering; child and adolescent participation; and knowledge management, fundraising and innovation.

32. Gender-transformative programming will be achieved through the inclusion of specific interventions in each of the components, integrating a gender approach both in the analysis of contexts and inequalities in general, as well as in the vulnerabilities that affect children, especially adolescent girls. Positive parenting will promote a change in gender norms.

Health, nutrition, environment and sanitation

33. This programme component, in alignment with UNSDCF outcomes 1, 2 and 4, will remove bottlenecks related to children's limited access to comprehensive health and nutritional services, and strengthen coordination mechanisms and policies to address multiple environmental, climatic and humanitarian risks.

34. UNICEF will support the design and implementation of stronger normative policies, budgeting and financing for the strengthening of health and nutrition

practices (e.g., nutritional labelling, fiscal measures and school-feeding programmes); prevention and response to multiple environmental and climate change threats; and the improvement of WASH services in vulnerable schools and communities.

35. The capacities and financing of national and local institutions will be strengthened through better programmes, protocols and strategic alliances with the private sector, focusing on service delivery, social accountability and care of children and adolescents towards enhanced health and nutrition, climate action and WASH.

36. Considering the prevalent knowledge gaps on nutrition and healthy practices and lifestyles, mental health and sexual and reproductive health among parents, caregivers and children and adolescents, support will be provided for social and behaviour change interventions targeting both individuals and communities. Municipal emergency committees will be trained in risk management, emergency preparedness and climate action, and supported for the implementation of child-focused interventions.

Early childhood development and education

37. This programme component, in alignment with UNSDCF outcomes 1, 2 and 4, will focus on removing bottlenecks related to harmful social norms and limited availability and efficiency of resources and tools, so that children and adolescents can learn in an appropriate environment, with the adequate infrastructure and solid pedagogical resources that favour socio-emotional health.

38. UNICEF will advocate for robust allocation and management of resources for education and early childhood development, as well as the establishment of dialogue mechanisms for national consensus on the need to strengthen quality public education and early childhood development services. Inter-institutional alliances and policies will be promoted on prevention of mental health manifestations and violence in schools, student reintegration and school retention and success.

39. Work with the Ministry of Public Education will concentrate on strengthening data generation and capacity for analysis; student assessment by type and location of educational centres; expenditure analysis and results-based budget management and curriculum reform. To reduce inequities, efforts will also focus on identification of the most-needed competencies and learning needs of children and adolescents upon graduation; learning recovery; teacher evaluation and training and strategic communication with students, teachers, parents and communities. Emphasis will be placed on strengthening educational quality and access of migrant, Afrodescendent and indigenous populations, including children with disabilities, in development and humanitarian settings and increasing emergency preparedness and response. The quality of primary and secondary education will be improved to address exclusion, reintegration and educational recovery, with emphasis on literacy; bilingualism; digital skills and science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics; life skills; socio-emotional health; climate education; and technical and vocational training.

40. The National Child Care and Development Network will be expanded and strengthened using innovative funding schemes, quality development for all its childcare alternatives, curriculum update, communication and social behavioural change capacities and teacher training. UNICEF will support the National Learning Institute on strengthening its dual education programme, with the aim of reducing exclusion and increasing the access and performance of vulnerable populations to professional programmes.

41. To address educational deprivations from a demand perspective, support will be provided to parents, caregivers, teachers and school administrative staff to increase knowledge, positive behaviours, resources and access to innovative platforms to

provide positive care during early childhood, primary and secondary education, ensuring school enrolment, retention, reintegration and success.

Child protection

42. In alignment with UNSDCF outcomes 1, 2 and 4, this programme component will focus on the development of knowledge and capacities of families and communities to adequately exercise their role of protection towards children and adolescents, and on the strengthening of protection services, institutional coordination and psychosocial guidance, focusing on violence prevention and response at the national and local levels, including in emergency situations.

43. UNICEF will support the development of decentralized policies for the prevention of child violence by local governments. Support will be provided to the National Council for Children and Adolescents to strengthen the generation of evidence and capacities for the evaluation of policies and programmes. The local protection subsystems and the national comprehensive protection system will have their capacities strengthened to promote alliances with institutions and the private sector for the prevention and response to violence, including in humanitarian and emergency contexts.

44. The different deinstitutionalization interventions that were supported by UNICEF under the previous country programme will be assessed, with the aim of promoting the expansion of those that had the greatest impact and feasibility for scale-up. The system of care for survivors of gender-based violence will be expanded, based on a review of existing specialized response systems, including those applied in humanitarian settings. An integrated response structure for the special protection of children will be designed and implemented. The National Child Welfare Agency's technical and managerial capacities, as well as its protection services, will be strengthened.

45. The country programme will prevent child labour by promoting a standard of conduct among key productive sectors to ensure child-labour-free industries and support local authorities in implementing policies to prevent and respond to child labour, in alliance with the private sector. The prevention of online violence in all its forms will be supported through social and behavioural change interventions to address the risks that children and adolescents are exposed to when accessing the web without guidance and through providing support for law enforcement and technical assistance to the Government concerning innovative norms, policies and partnerships, in close coordination with Internet providers.

46. The capacities of individuals and families will be strengthened to adequately exercise their role of protection of children and adolescents, promoting positive parenting and a non-violent culture. Adolescent girls' leadership skills capacities will be developed to achieve gender equality.

Social protection and child poverty

47. This programme component, in alignment with UNSDCF outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4, will remove bottlenecks related to behaviours and social norms that do not promote co-responsibility for care or an equitable economic and political role for women; limited coverage of early childhood development services; and poor institutional coordination and management of resources to implement child-related social protection programmes in an equitable, efficient and effective manner.

48. UNICEF will advocate for inclusiveness, access, effectiveness and sufficiency of resources of child-related social protection programmes and public services.

Institutional norms that reproduce negative gender roles will be addressed through a gender-transformative approach.

49. Welfare assistance institutions will be supported to improve the management and coordination capacities necessary to implement equitable, efficient and effective social protection interventions and shock-resilient services, with mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation. The primary focus will be on reducing educational exclusion; strengthening access to adolescents' sexual and reproductive health services; expanding the coverage and enhancing the quality of the childcare network; scaling up social protection services, including during humanitarian situations and emergencies; and reducing unemployment, primarily of female heads of households.

50. Social and behaviour change interventions will be carried out to promote co-responsibility in care and domestic tasks; an equitable role for women; gender-sensitive early childhood care practices; the enrolment of children in day-care alternatives and schools; the relevance of completion of secondary education and seeking access to universities and technical or vocational education; and access to sexual and reproductive health.

Programme effectiveness

51. This programme component will ensure synergistic coordination between programmes, external relations and public advocacy, strengthened fundraising and partnerships with private companies and civil society, innovative and strategic communication and implementation of monitoring, evaluation and feedback loop mechanisms. These will focus upon the 25 historically most-deprived cantons and their most neglected children, adolescents and women.

52. Two key approaches will guide this country programme: (a) territorial prioritization, targeting population groups with high levels of vulnerability, and (b) strengthened engagement with the private sector and civil society, not only for fundraising but also through joint programming.

Summary budget table

<i>Programme component</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular Resources</i>	<i>Other Resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Health, nutrition, environment and sanitation	550	900	1 450
Early childhood development and education	620	1 700	2 320
Child protection	510	1 899	2 409
Social protection and child poverty	420	1 904	2 324
Programme effectiveness	2 150	362	2 512
Total	4 250	6 765	11 015

Programme and risk management

53. The present country programme document summarizes UNICEF contributions to national results and is the main accountability mechanism to the Executive Board for the harmonization of programme results and resources at the country level. The

accountability of managers at the national, regional and headquarters levels are defined in the policies and procedures relating to the organization's programmes and operations.

54. The country programme will be implemented in coordination with government institutions at the national and local levels and with the private sector, civil society, academia, multilateral and bilateral development agencies and the United Nations system.³³

55. Through the Environmental and Social Standards, UNICEF is committed to ensure the conditions for clean and safe environments for children. Climate change, environmental degradation and displacement are some of the threats that the country faces, preventing sustainable and inclusive development. The country programme will address these elements from all programme sectors.

56. UNICEF will regularly identify and mitigate the risks identified in the theory of change as well as emerging risks, examining those that could affect the situation of children, UNICEF work and also potentially threaten business continuity. Some of these identified risks are:

(a) fiscal constraints arising from internal and international conditions, which might severely affect the social protection systems and programmes;

(b) vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters combined with insufficient human, technical and economic capacities to respond to the needs of vulnerable populations during an emergency;

(c) continuous and increasing mixed migratory flows, which will require joint action by partners to achieve the provision of humanitarian assistance and the integration of migrants and refugees in host communities. These risks will be mitigated by incorporating emergency preparedness and response and a risk-informed approach into regular programming.

57. UNICEF will continue to strengthen its operations by collaborating with other United Nations agencies through the Business Operations Strategy aimed at cost-saving measures. Additional risk mitigation and management initiatives will include the harmonized approach to cash transfers, security risk management, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, child safeguarding, accountability for affected populations, environmental sustainability of UNICEF and other institutional commitments.

Monitoring and evaluation

58. National capacities will be strengthened to systematically collect, analyse and use disaggregated data to monitor and inform policy decisions, report on the situation of children and adolescents and monitor progress towards the realization of child rights. A four-pronged approach will be adopted:

(a) Field monitoring through quarterly partner reporting. Focus group discussions and text messaging services will be used for direct feedback from affected populations.

³³ Mainly United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Health Organization (WHO)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

(b) Midyear and annual reviews with partners and stakeholders will be employed for monitoring of programme results.

(c) National surveys, such as the multiple indicator cluster survey and censuses in partnership with public institutions, will be used to capture situational data on child deprivations, including changes in norms and behaviours.

(d) *Evaluation*: The country office will focus its support on: (i) strengthening national evaluation systems to be child responsive; (ii) evaluating actions towards the Sustainable Development Goals related to the UNICEF mandate; (iii) generating evidence to report on progress towards results for children; thematic evaluations; and (iv) an evaluation of this country programme.

59. UNICEF will continue to participate fully in the United Nations country team and, in partnership with the resident coordinator, will work on results-based management, monitoring and evaluation and innovation that will inform and ensure programme quality, efficiency and effectiveness.

60. The results and resources framework forms the basis for monitoring and evaluation. Detailed workplans will be developed, and programme results will be discussed with government partners and other key stakeholders.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Costa Rica – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, March 2023–December 2027

<p>Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 4, 6, 8–29, 31–37, 39, 40 and 44</p> <p>National priorities: Inclusive and equitable social development and democratic development based on human rights; Sustainable Development Goals 1–5, 10, 13, and 16–17</p>
<p>United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) outcomes involving UNICEF:</p> <p>Outcome 1: An inclusive Costa Rica that renews its social contract by embracing its multi-ethnic and multicultural identity, guaranteeing the full and non-discriminatory exercise of human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women, girls and young people in their diversity (Effects 1.1–1.3).</p> <p>Outcome 2: National and local governance centred on people and their rights, with efficient, fair, transparent, sustainable public services and broad and dynamic spaces for participation and dialogue that empower people, especially women in their diversity and vulnerable populations throughout the country (Effects 2.1 and 2.2).</p> <p>Outcome 3: Development of a vibrant creative, innovative, inclusive, circular, competitive and sustainable economy that generates decent work, opportunities and social and economic prosperity for all people, including women in their diversity and vulnerable populations throughout the country (Effect 3.2).</p> <p>Outcome 4: People, communities, institutions and the country are resilient, capable of building a systemic response that generates sustainability and security in the face of the multiplicity of risks and the multiple and complex systemic crises of global and local scope that feed off each other, exacerbating its negative impacts on people and the planet. (Effects 4.1–4.3).</p>
<p>Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 Goal Areas: 1–5</p>

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (in thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
						<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
1, 2 and 4	Outcome 1: Health, nutrition, environment and sanitation By 2027, children, adolescents and young people and	Percentage of children (a) under 5 years of age and (b) aged 5–9 years, who are overweight (a) B: 7.4% (2018) T: 6% (b) B: 17.2% (2016)	Reports of the Health Surveillance Directorate, Ministry of Health, by National School Census on	1.1 The Costa Rican State will implement policy, budgeting and financing frameworks for health and nutrition, increased prevention and response to multiple threats and risks and	Line ministries Targeted municipalities Costa Rican Social Security Fund	550	900	1 450

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (in thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
	their families, especially the most vulnerable, will improve their comprehensive health and nutrition status, and live in resilient, sustainable and risk-free environments.	T: 15%	Weight and Height Survey of Women, Children and Adolescents /multiple indicator cluster survey round 6 (MICS-6) by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos, INEC)	improved sanitation in educational centres, for the promotion of a healthy, sustainable and risk-free environment for children and their communities. 1.2 National and local institutions have the capacities to improve the implementation of policies, programmes and protocols for children and adolescent health and nutrition, and communities have increased resilience to multiple threats, including climate change impact.	National Child Care and Development Network (Red Nacional de Cuido y Desarrollo Infantil, REDCUDI) Young Person's Council Institute of Municipal Development and Assistance Academia United Nations agencies Civil society			
Adolescent birth rate per 1,000 women in that age group B: 14.7 (2018) T: 12		Vital statistics by INEC	1.3 Children and adolescents, their families and communities have the knowledge and capacities for health care and self-care in the face of multiple threats and risks.					
Number of local governments with child-sensitive disaster risk and recovery policies, strategies and plans B: 0 (2022) T: 45 (55%)		Ministry of the Environment and Energy Institute of Municipal Development and Assistance						
1, 2 and 4	Outcome 2: Early childhood development and education	Adjusted net attendance rate of children from the poorest quintile in (a) primary and (b) lower	Ministry of Public Education	2.1 The Costa Rican State guarantees the proper allocation and management of	Line ministries Targeted municipalities	620	1 700	2 320

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (in thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
	By 2027, children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, will access, remain, reintegrate and graduate from a quality public education system from early childhood.	and upper secondary education (a) B: 95.9% (2018) T: 100% (b) Lower secondary B: 64.7% (2018) T: 70% Upper secondary B: 30.4% (2018) T: 40%	Survey of Women, Children and Adolescents/ MICS-6 by INEC	resources for education, as well as the review and updating of the existing policy framework. 2.2 National and local institutions have strengthened capacities and alliances to provide quality education, with adequate infrastructure and increased access to solid pedagogical resources that consider socio-emotional health as a substantive element.	National Learning Institute REDCUDI National Child Welfare Agency National Institute for Social Care National Women's Institute (Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres, INAMU)			
		Completion rate in (a) primary and (b) lower and upper secondary education (a) B: 98.2% (2018) T: 100% (b) Lower secondary B: 72.9% (2018) T: 80% Upper secondary B: 58.4% (2018) T: 80%	Educational System Indicators Report by the Ministry of Public Education Survey of Women, Children and Adolescents/ MICS-6 by INEC	2.3 Children, their families and education staff have the knowledge and tools to raise awareness and promote changes in behaviours and norms concerning their socio-emotional health, early childhood development, prevention of discrimination and bullying in schools and the importance of completing secondary education.	National Institute of Aqueducts and Sewers National Emergency Commission Costa Rican Social Security Fund Academia United Nations agencies Civil society			

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (in thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
1, 2 and 4	<p>Outcome 3: Child protection</p> <p>By 2027, children and adolescents and their families, especially the most vulnerable, will live in protective environments free of violence.</p>	<p>Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month</p> <p>B: 49.3% (2018) T: 40%</p>	<p>Survey of Women, Children and Adolescents/ MICS-6 by INEC</p>	<p>3.1 Costa Rica strengthens regulations, policies and procedures to protect children and adolescents, and prevent and respond to violence.</p> <p>3.2 The Local Protection Subsystem institutions and the National Comprehensive Protection System have enhanced capacities to deliver a coordinated work on the prevention and response to violence against children and adolescents.</p> <p>3.3 The most vulnerable children and adolescents are protected against violence by their fathers, mothers, caregivers and communities who exercise positive parenting.</p>	<p>Line ministries</p> <p>Targeted municipalities</p> <p>National Emergency Commission</p> <p>National Child Welfare Agency</p> <p>National Council for Children and Adolescents</p> <p>Costa Rican Social Security Fund</p> <p>Supreme Court of Justice</p> <p>INAMU</p> <p>Academia</p> <p>United Nations agencies</p> <p>Civil society</p>	510	1 899	2 409
1–4	<p>Outcome 4: Social protection and child poverty</p> <p>By 2027, children and adolescents</p>	<p>Percentage of children living in monetary poverty</p> <p>B: 39% (2021) T: 30%</p>	<p>Household survey by INEC</p>	<p>4.1 The Costa Rican Government strengthens its policy and normative frameworks towards better access, shock-</p>	<p>Line ministries</p> <p>Targeted municipalities</p> <p>REDCUDI</p>	420	1 904	2 324

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (in thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
	and their families, especially female-headed households and the most vulnerable populations, will emerge from poverty through their work and the access to quality services and social protection programmes that guarantee their well-being and comprehensive development within protective environments.	Percentage of time spent on care work by sex Male: B: 25.8% (2017) T: 30% Female: B: 39.7% (2017) T: 30%	Use of time survey by INEC	<p>resilience, effectiveness and sufficiency of resources of its social protection programmes and public services focused on children and adolescents, strengthening inclusiveness, human rights and social accountability.</p> <p>4.2 The welfare and social assistance institutions greatly improve their management and coordination capacities necessary to implement and deliver child and woman-focused social protection programmes and public services in a resilient, equitable, gender-responsive manner with links to special protection and humanitarian response systems.</p> <p>4.3 Children, adolescents, families and society assume key gender-transformative and pro-education social norms and attitudes that provide opportunities for</p>	<p>National Child Welfare Agency</p> <p>National Institute for Social Care</p> <p>National Emergency Commission</p> <p>INAMU</p> <p>Comptroller General of the Republic</p> <p>Academia</p> <p>United Nations agencies</p> <p>Civil society</p>			

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (in thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
						<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
				children, adolescents and women, accelerating the reduction of poverty.				
Outcome 5: Programme effectiveness						2 150	362	2 512
Total resources						4 250	6 765	11 015