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Draft country programme document**

El Salvador

Summary

The draft country programme document (CPD) for El Salvador is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and comment. The draft CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $5,000,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $19,750,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period March 2027 to December 2031.

*E/ICEF/2027/1.

**In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, country programme documents (CPDs) are considered and approved in one session, on a no-objection basis. This draft CPD, and a costed evaluation plan, will be presented to the Executive Board for review from 10 to 30 November 2026. The final CPD will be posted to the Executive Board web page in English six weeks in advance of the 2027 first regular session and in the other designated languages four weeks in advance.

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Programme rationale

1. The country programme responds to the context of profound national transformation. As an upper-middle-income country, El Salvador is making significant progress on security, economic development, and strengthening public policies, thereby creating opportunities to accelerate outcomes for children and adolescents. The early childhood-related transformations driven by the Government have laid the foundations for strengthening integrated development throughout the life cycle. Building on this progress, the country is prioritizing integrated care from the earliest years and expanding opportunities for learning, well-being, and protection during childhood and adolescence, promoting the continuity of interventions and a positive transition to adulthood.

2. With 6.03 million inhabitants,[1] of whom 26.1 per cent are aged between 0 and 17 years, El Salvador is undergoing a demographic transition that reinforces the need to invest in new generations to drive productive trajectories and contribute to economic and social development. The low birth rate is reducing the country's demographic dividend, which makes investment in early childhood even more strategic. Guaranteeing children's integrated development helps to strengthen the human capital needed to sustain the economy and achieve inclusive and sustainable growth.

3. In the economic sphere, El Salvador maintains positive growth, with a 3.9 per cent increase in gross domestic product in 2025,[2] and public debt at 28.8 per cent of the national budget in 2025.[3] In the same year, the number of people in monetary poverty decreased from 1.81 million to 1.55 million; however, 20.1 per cent of households continued to face multidimensional poverty.[4]

4. El Salvador has consolidated important progress towards the development of a regulatory, institutional and programmatic framework aimed at guaranteeing the integrated development and protection of children and adolescents from their earliest years. Since 2019, the Government of El Salvador has implemented the National Early Childhood Agenda as a strategic priority, promoting the transformation of public policies, care models and services aimed at children from their first years of life. Consolidating this progress requires strengthening institutional capacity, intersectoral coordination and investments to guarantee development opportunities throughout the life cycle.

5. The first years of life are fundamental for integrated development, as they lay the foundations for learning, health and socioemotional well-being. In recognition of this stage, El Salvador has prioritized investment in early childhood through public policies, regulatory frameworks and integrated services that recognize children as the subjects of rights and families as key actors, laying the foundations for their development throughout the life cycle.

6. El Salvador has made progress on consolidating a regulatory and institutional framework for integrated early childhood care, supported by the Growing Together (*Crecer Juntos*) National Policy, the Growing Together (*Crecer Juntos*) Law for the

[1] Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador (Banco Central de Reserva de El Salvador, BCR), Population and Housing Census, 2024; see https://poblacion.bcr.gob.sv/pages/teg-poblaci%C3%B3n (in Spanish).
[2] BCR, "Economic and Financial Database", 2026, available in Spanish at https://estadisticas.bcr.gob.sv/base-economica-y-financiera.
[3] Ministry of Finance, "Analysis of Expenditure by Management Areas", 2025, available in Spanish at https://transparencia.mh.gob.sv/downloads/pdf/700-DGP-ANGP-2025.pdf.
[4] BCR, Multi-Purpose Household Survey 2025; see https://www.bcr.gob.sv/documental/Inicio/busqueda/135 (in Spanish).

Integral Protection of Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence, the Born with Care (*Nacer con Cariño*) Law, the Love Turned into Food (*Amor Convertido en Alimento*) Law, and the Model for Integrated Early Childhood Care. In education, this stage has been prioritized through infrastructure, teacher training, incorporating technology, strengthening institutional management and curriculum updates, promoting play, quality interactions and active learning. Between 2019 and 2025, early childhood education coverage increased from 4.7 per cent to 15.8 per cent and preschool coverage from 55.3 per cent to 73.8 per cent. However, gaps persist in achieving universal coverage. In health, maternal mortality fell from 34.5 per 100,000 live births in 2022 to 21.8 in 2025; neonatal mortality fell from 5.6 to 4.5, infant mortality from 9.2 to 7.4 and under-5 mortality from 10.6 to 8.4. Moreover, breastfeeding rooms increased from 103 to more than 600 between 2022 and 2025, and the rate of exclusive breastfeeding reached 65 per cent. The mental health of children and adolescents has also been given greater attention as a national priority.[5]

7. Given this context, the main challenge is to ensure that families use accessible and relevant services for the integrated development of children in a sustained and effective manner. While 74.9 per cent of children aged 24 to 59 months receive early stimulation activities at home, access to formal child development programmes remains limited: 20.1 per cent of children aged 36 to 59 months attend these programmes.[6] Furthermore, caregivers face high levels of stress and overload, while child-rearing practices based on physical punishment and psychological aggression persist. According to the 2021 National Health Survey, 54.5 per cent of children aged 1 to 14 years experienced one of these forms of violence during the month preceding the survey.[7] In this context, it is essential to strengthen families' capabilities and parenting skills, to promote nurturing and responsive care and to increase the effective use of the services available. This requires recognizing families as the primary environment for care, protection, learning and development, fostering secure emotional bonds, positive interactions and opportunities for play and learning in family, educational and community settings, as well as strengthening alternative care arrangements.

8. The second decade of life, centred on adolescence, is decisive for consolidating the progress made during childhood and ensuring positive trajectories towards adulthood. The country has recorded significant progress, including reducing the adolescent (15–19 years) pregnancy rate from 68.8 births per 1,000 adolescents in 2015 to 28.5 in 2024.[8] Likewise, the upper-secondary education completion rate increased from 55.5 per cent in 2015 to 61.4 per cent in 2023.[9] In addition, the Academic and Technical Continuity Programme promoted by the Directorate of Integration has improved the transition of secondary school graduates to higher education and vocational training, increasing from between 1 per cent and 5 per cent of students from state schools transitioning to higher education to almost 50 per cent.[10]

[5] National Integrated Health System, "Situation Room 2025".
[6] National Institute of Health (INS), "National Health Survey", 2021.
[7] Ibid.
[8] United Nations Population Fund, "Mapa de Embarazos en Niñas y Adolescentes, El Salvador 2025", June 2025, available in Spanish at https://elsalvador.unfpa.org/es/publications/mapa-embarazos-nnaa_sv2025.
[9] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Institute for Statistics, "SDG 4 Country Profile: El Salvador", 2013, available at: https://www.uis.unesco.org/en/data/sdg4-country-profiles.
[10] Directorate of Integration, "The future starts in public school: Access to education for all", 2026, available in Spanish at https://integracion.gob.sv/2026/08/29/el-futuro-empieza-en-la-escuela-publica-acceso-a-la-educacion-para-todos-una-generacion-que-florece/.

This progress coexists with challenges that require renewed attention during the second decade of life.

9. Within the framework of the educational reform focused on digitization, infrastructure and curriculum transformation, it is necessary to continue to ensure the completion of educational trajectories and learning quality during adolescence. In 2025, 24.7 per cent of adolescents aged 16–18 years did not attend an educational setting, with a higher rate among women, and net enrolment in secondary education was 47 per cent, showing that gaps in access and educational continuity persist.[11]

10. The 2025 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results show an improvement in science compared with 2022; however, learning-related challenges persist: 35 per cent of students reached the minimum level of proficiency in science, 29 per cent in reading and 12 per cent in mathematics.[12] Likewise, 30.8 per cent of women and girls aged 15–24 years were neither working nor participating in training programmes, compared with 11.5 per cent of men and boys in the same age group.[13] In response to these challenges, the Law on the National Integration System (*Sistema Nacional de Integración*) and its Culture of Integration model bring together the Government, the private sector and communities, and the Government is promoting educational modernization and the transition to tertiary education. It will therefore be necessary to strengthen teaching skills, promote innovative teaching approaches, prevent dropouts, and link education with training and employment opportunities through an intersectoral response.

11. Adolescent well-being in El Salvador faces significant challenges related to mental health. According to the 2022 National Mental Health Survey, 54.8 per cent of adolescents aged 13–17 years had high levels of anxiety and 29.5 per cent had severe symptoms of major depression. Between 3.4 per cent and 5.3 per cent had indicators associated with suicide risk.[14] These findings highlight the need to strengthen an integrated and intersectoral response, coordinating actions to prevent poor mental health and improve emotional well-being, early detection and timely care, differentiated by stage of life. To this end, it is essential to consolidate institutional coordination mechanisms, strengthen information systems to guide decision-making and promote protective family, educational and community environments.

12. One of the major priorities within the Government is the prevention of violence in childhood and adolescence. Fifteen per cent of adolescents aged 13–17 years reported having experienced school bullying.[15] Furthermore, of the more than 5,200 cases of sexual violence against women and girls reported in 2022, 70 per cent involved young and adolescent girls: 41.4 per cent were aged 0–14 years and 28.6 per cent were aged 15–19 years.[16] In addition, increasing access to digital environments from an early age gives rise to protection needs: in 2022, 31.9 per cent of adolescents aged 13–17 years used social media for three hours or more per day.[17] To address

[11] National Council for Development, “Voluntary National Review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”, 2025, available at https://hlpf.un.org/countries/el-salvador/voluntary-national-review-2025.

[12] Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *PISA 2025 Results (Volume I): Future-Ready Students*, Paris, 2026, available at https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/2026/09/pisa-2025-results-volume-i_5265bfb1.html.

[13] World Bank, *El Salvador Gender Scorecard 2025*, World Bank Group, Washington, D.C., 2025.

[14] INS, “National Mental Health Survey 2022”, San Salvador, 2023, available in Spanish at https://fosalud.gob.sv/download/primera-encuesta-nacional-de-salud-mental/.

[15] Ibid.

[16] Ministry of Justice and Public Security, “Report on Facts, Status and Situation of Violence against Women El Salvador 2022”, 2023.

[17] INS, “National Mental Health Survey 2022”, San Salvador, 2023, available in Spanish at https://fosalud.gob.sv/download/primera-encuesta-nacional-de-salud-mental/.

these challenges, it is necessary to strengthen training processes, guarantee specialized protection systems and integrated care, and promote the restoration of rights and access to justice mechanisms (tailored to children and adolescents), and safe digital environments.

13. Promoting healthy lifestyles during childhood and adolescence also remains a challenge. In 2024, 9.2 per cent of schoolchildren aged 6–10 years were overweight and 6.5 per cent were obese. Among adolescents aged 11–18 years, rates were higher: 15.3 per cent were overweight and 10.2 per cent were obese.[18] The country has three strategies to address this: the National Nutrition Strategy; the National Strategy for the Prevention of Overweight and Obesity in Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence, and the Healthy Growth and Learning Strategy, the implementation of which offers an opportunity to strengthen healthy food environments and promote good nutrition and physical activity practices. It will therefore be essential to scale up access to integrated health and nutrition information and services and to strengthen family, school and community environments to promote healthy habits and appropriate nutrition, hygiene and physical activity practices.

14. Efforts continue to mitigate the increasing exposure to climate and environmental hazards in a context of intense rainfall, flooding and prolonged periods of drought that affect children and adolescents. According to the *Children's Climate Risk Report 2026*, El Salvador has a multi-hazard exposure score of 3.52 (medium) and a child vulnerability score of 3.34 (high).[19] These conditions disproportionately affect children and adolescents, their development and access to resilient basic services, including health, nutrition and food, education, protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene, particularly in the most exposed geographic areas. El Salvador has recently updated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0). This update recognizes that the social sectors are the most vulnerable to a climate crisis. The document adopts principles of intergenerational inclusion to safeguard the well-being of children (including young children) and adolescents in the face of climate disasters and risks based on community resilience and participatory governance. Therefore, it will be important to strengthen the proposed measures for health, nutrition and food security, education and protection, among others, and the meaningful participation of adolescents in these processes. The Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy Landscape Analysis for Children in El Salvador[20] provides further evidence by examining climate and environmental risks and the exposure and vulnerability of communities, infrastructure and services. Its findings have helped to identify priorities in relation to resilience, risk management and the participation of children and adolescents.

15. The above analysis and the lessons from the 2022–2026 Country Programme Evaluation guided the strategic priorities of the new cycle, reinforcing the importance of concentrating efforts on a limited number of strategic priorities. The potential of these priorities to generate results at scale by strengthening national systems, policies and programmes with the capacity to sustainably reach children and adolescents throughout the country was also considered.

[18] Ministry of Health, National Strategy for the Prevention of Overweight and Obesity in Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence *"Crecer Juntos"*, San Salvador, 2026, available in Spanish at https://bvssan.incap.int/local/D/DCE-262.pdf.

[19] UNICEF, *Children's Climate Risk Report 2026*, Florence, June 2026.

[20] UNICEF, "Climate, Environment and Sustainable Energy Analysis for Children in El Salvador", UNICEF El Salvador, April 2026, available in Spanish at https://www.unicef.org/elsalvador/informes/clac.

Programme priorities and partnerships

16. The formulation of the programme was led by the Government through a process of dialogue and joint planning with UNICEF. The programme design flows from national development priorities and takes into account the progress and challenges noted in the 2025 Third Voluntary National Review.[21] Furthermore, it is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2027–2031, contributing to the outcomes identified in the results framework of the present CPD and with the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029. In particular, the programme recognizes early childhood as a strategic priority of the Government of El Salvador and builds on the progress achieved within the framework of the National Early Childhood Agenda, as well as the policies, laws, strategies and integrated care models that guide national interventions from the first years of life. During the formulation of the programme, input was incorporated from civil society organizations and adolescents from a range of backgrounds and in various situations of vulnerability, including adolescents with disabilities. The programme design also considered the country's international human rights commitments, including the recommendations accepted in the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review[22] and the most recent concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child,[23] particularly those related to access to quality services, inclusive education, participation and integrated protection. In this vein, the programme will contribute to national efforts so that more children and adolescents reach their full potential, consolidating the progress made in their first decade of life and expanding their opportunities in adolescence. In this way, it will support sustained investment throughout the life course to foster a successful transition to adulthood.

17. To achieve this vision, UNICEF will concentrate its efforts on priorities with the greatest potential to transform the life trajectories of children and adolescents and deliver sustainable results at scale through national systems, policies and programmes.

18. The programme will be guided by a cross-cutting equity-sensitive approach that will prioritize children and adolescents facing the greatest vulnerabilities and risks of exclusion, so that those facing the greatest barriers to their development and well-being can benefit from the progress supported by the programme. To this end, UNICEF, together with the Government, will support actions that help to identify and reduce gaps in access to quality opportunities, services and protective environments, with a special focus on people in situations of greater vulnerability, including those with disabilities or those who are affected by poverty, violence or natural hazards.

19. The programmatic structure is rooted in a life-cycle approach and is organized into two complementary outcomes, recognizing that investments and development opportunities during early childhood are the foundations for strengthening educational trajectories, well-being and protection during early childhood, childhood and adolescence. The first seeks to consolidate progress on child welfare in the first decade of life, strengthening families, promoting responsive and protective parenting practices, and improving the effective use of integrated services. The second focuses on expanding opportunities in the second decade of life, through actions in five priority areas: mental health and emotional well-being; educational trajectories; violence prevention; healthy lifestyles; and climate action and risk management.

[21] National Council for Development, "Voluntary National Review", 2025.
[22] Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, El Salvador – Addendum, A/HRC/59/5/Add.1, 2025.
[23] Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of El Salvador, CRC/C/SLV/CO/5-6, 2018.

These outcomes will be reinforced by cross-cutting and integrated strategies on partnerships, communication, resource mobilization, advocacy, social and behaviour change and innovation.

20. As a trusted partner, UNICEF will support national priorities through technical assistance, public policy dialogue, evidence generation and the development of multisectoral solutions via policies, standards and service models. Support will focus on solutions with the potential for institutional adoption and progressive expansion through national systems. The programme will seek to support greater coordination between sectors to facilitate the institutional adoption and scaling up of effective solutions that accelerate results for children and adolescents. Within this framework, it will offer technical assistance aligned with national priorities, strengthening existing institutional capacity and promoting the sustainability, national ownership and intersectoral coordination of interventions.

21. UNICEF will leverage its capacity to convene and advocate to support the Government to mobilize and plan public investments in child and adolescent welfare, through strategic analysis and innovative financing mechanisms that transform fiscal space into sustainable investments. Implementation will focus on strategic partnerships aligned with national priorities and oriented towards shared results, coordinating public institutions, the United Nations system, international financial institutions, civil society, academia and the private sector. These partnerships will strengthen national systems, help to scale up effective solutions, and mobilize resources and innovation for skills development and the smooth transition of adolescents and young people into technical training and employment.

22. Collaboration with international financial institutions will seek to integrate child and adolescent welfare priorities into relevant reforms, investments and funding arrangements. Furthermore, UNICEF will support the mobilization of additional resources and innovative funding approaches to help accelerate, maintain and scale up results for children and adolescents through strategic partnerships that support more effective investments.

First decade

23. In line with the social welfare priority of the UNSDCF and the national priorities established in the Growing Together (*Crecer Juntos*) National Policy and the Growing Together (*Crecer Juntos*) Law, this outcome will strengthen national systems for integrated early childhood care and protection, promoting early child development and well-being during the first decade of life. To this end, family and care environments, positive parenting practices and nurturing care will be strengthened, as will play and socioemotional development. These actions will help to consolidate integrated care centred on children and their families, supporting the continuity of development and learning throughout the life cycle.

24. UNICEF will support national efforts to strengthen the capacity and mechanisms of institutions and families to improve the mental health and emotional well-being of children and their caregivers. Likewise, UNICEF will support family strengthening programmes and the National Plan for Better Parenting Practices, helping to strengthen the capacity of mothers, fathers and other caregivers to support the integrated development of children through nurturing, responsive and respectful parenting practices, positive interactions, secure emotional bonds and play and learning experiences that promote their physical, cognitive and socioemotional well-being.

25. Furthermore, UNICEF will support the recognition of play as a fundamental right of children and an essential element of their integrated development,

strengthening opportunities for play and learning in family, educational and community settings, in coordination with the National Play Strategy.

Second decade

26. In line with the strategic priorities of the UNSDCF and the Growing Together (*Crecer Juntos*) Law, this outcome will strengthen environments that support the well-being, participation and resilience of children and adolescents, providing continuity to early childhood investments. The programme will foster educational and training pathways, socioemotional well-being, violence prevention, healthy lifestyles and adolescent participation in climate action and disaster risk management. These actions will be coordinated across family, school and community environments, as well as in public services, to increase their reach and promote development opportunities and positive transitions into adulthood.

27. To strengthen educational pathways, the programme will promote access, retention, foundational learning and life skills for adulthood, leveraging initiatives such as Two Schools per Day and the digital transformation of the education system. UNICEF will promote the use of evidence and policy dialogue to coordinate education, technical training, vocational guidance and work skills, including digital skills and the use of artificial intelligence. Furthermore, it will promote educational centres as inclusive spaces and safe environments, as well as violence prevention and student participation. It will strengthen teaching skills through initial and ongoing training, aligned with the National Teacher Training Plan, and will foster educational and professional aspirations. Additionally, it will support the national strategy for out-of-school children and adolescents and analytical tools to guide the planning and allocation of public education spending based on criteria related to sufficiency, efficiency and equity.

28. Moreover, the programme will strengthen integrated models and services for promotion, prevention and care in relation to child and adolescent mental health. UNICEF will provide technical assistance to incorporate protocols, screening tools and early identification into health, education and protection services, and to integrate psychosocial support into emergency preparedness and response. Furthermore, it will promote regulatory frameworks and intersectoral mechanisms that facilitate the institutionalization and scaling up of these interventions. Through the generation and use of evidence, it will support the design of strategies and the monitoring of results, with a focus on prevention and the continuity of socioemotional development from early childhood through adolescence.

29. In response to the various forms of violence affecting children and adolescents, the programme will strengthen mechanisms for prevention, responsive care and protection, with an emphasis on peer-to-peer, sexual and online violence. UNICEF will support inter-institutional coordination to prevent re-victimization, ensure integrated victim-centred responses, and strengthen information systems and the use of evidence to guide decision-making and allocate resources. Furthermore, it will foster actions to guarantee rights and integrated protection in accordance with national and international standards. In addition, it will support adolescent participation in violence prevention and strengthen parenting skills, care practices and digital education to foster safe and protective environments in families, schools and communities.

30. The programme will promote knowledge, skills and attitudes that support healthy lifestyles for children and adolescents. UNICEF will foster the generation and use of evidence on nutrition, holistic health and hygiene to guide communication and social and behaviour change strategies that encourage self-care, healthy eating,

hygiene and physical activity. Furthermore, it will provide technical assistance to implement these strategies in family, school and community settings, promoting participation and the adoption of healthy practices. In addition, it will strengthen adolescents' leadership and their participation in decision-making on health, nutrition and self-care.

31. The programme will strengthen institutional capacity for disaster risk management and climate adaptation with a child and adolescent focus, prioritizing regional preparedness, risk reduction and the continuity of essential services during emergencies. UNICEF will promote adolescent participation and leadership in inter-institutional coordination, environmental and climate education, and the development of green skills in schools and communities. Furthermore, it will drive the generation and use of evidence, data and risk analysis methodologies focused on children in the most vulnerable situations to guide decision-making, strengthen institutional preparedness and promote climate adaptation measures.

Programme effectiveness

32. The programme effectiveness component will support the integrated management of both outcomes and their continuity throughout the life cycle. It will strengthen coordination, planning, monitoring, evaluation, risk management and safeguarding.

33. UNICEF will combine technical assistance, public policy dialogue, innovation and evidence generation to strengthen national systems and scale up effective solutions. It will promote the strategic use of data for decision-making and to improve policies and programmes, particularly on early childhood development, the implementation of the National Early Childhood Curriculum, parenting practices and the quality and use of integrated care services. It will also prioritize socioemotional development, mental health, violence prevention and integrated protection, contributing to relevant, effective and sustainable interventions.

34. Strategic communication and social and behaviour change will be integrated into the programme design, based on evidence and strategic partnerships. During the first decade of life, these strategies will promote nurturing care, positive parenting practices, play, emotional bonds, socioemotional well-being, shared family and community responsibility, and the effective use of integrated care services. In the second decade, the focus will shift to fostering educational continuity, mental health, healthy lifestyles, violence prevention, climate action and the participation of children and adolescents. Furthermore, existing participation mechanisms such as the Child and Adolescent Advisory Councils and Student Councils, along with their corresponding surveys, will be strengthened, ensuring integrated protection, accessibility and non-discrimination to reduce gaps in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

35. Implementation will leverage strategic partnerships to mobilize knowledge, resources and innovation and to strengthen intersectoral coordination. Furthermore, it will promote innovative funding and resource mobilization to support the sustainability and scaling up of results for children and adolescents. UNICEF will harness its convening power for dialogue and inter-institutional coordination and will generate evidence with national institutions, including the Office of the First Lady, the National Council for Early Childhood, Children and Adolescents (*Consejo Nacional de la Primera Infancia, Niñez y Adolescencia*, CONAPINA) as the governing body of the National Integrated Protection System, the Growing Together (*Crecer Juntos*) Institute, the Directorate of Integration, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and sectoral ministries. Furthermore, it will help to strengthen intersectoral

coordination mechanisms, such as the Technical Committee on Parenting Practices and the Intersectoral Alliance for Adolescents and Youth.

Summary budget table

Programme component	*(In thousands of United States dollars)*		
	Regular resources	*Other resources*	*Total*
First decade	1 250	5 000	6 250
Second decade	2 500	13 250	15 750
Programme effectiveness	1 250	1 500	2 750
Total	**5 000**	**19 750**	**24 750**

Programme and risk management

36. The present document summarizes the planned contributions of UNICEF to addressing national priorities and is the principal mechanism for accountability to the Executive Board on the results achieved and the resources assigned to the programme. The responsibilities and accountability of managers at the national, regional and headquarters levels are defined in the organization's programmatic and operational policies and procedures. The programme will be coordinated with the relevant national bodies and established UNSDCF coordination mechanisms, including the National Steering Committee, working groups, and monitoring, evaluation and learning mechanisms, as well as with development partners.

37. UNICEF will continuously monitor progress and factors that could affect its performance. This information will guide decision-making, inform adjustments to implementation and help to identify opportunities. Monitoring will cover trends in national priorities, the performance of services for children and adolescents, and the availability and use of evidence for management.

38. Key risks to implementation include: (a) public health emergencies, natural and climate-related hazards and shocks that disrupt essential services; (b) changes in economic or institutional conditions affecting social investment in child welfare; (c) changes in the national context or priorities; (d) demographic changes and human mobility dynamics influencing children's needs; and (e) challenges affecting the availability of disaggregated data for planning and decision-making. To mitigate these risks, UNICEF will strengthen risk-based management, cross-sectoral coordination, preparedness, anticipatory action and emergency response, and the use of evidence, while maintaining flexibility for adaptation.

39. UNICEF will apply its Policy on Social and Environmental Standards in Programming, integrating the management of environmental and social risks and impacts to avoid harm and promote sustainable results. Programme management will incorporate stakeholder engagement and feedback and complaints mechanisms, as well as relevant measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and data protection.

Monitoring, learning and evaluation

40. UNICEF will support the generation and use of timely, relevant and high-quality information, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, geographic location and disability, to monitor the situation of children and guide decision-making. UNICEF will support the strengthening of government monitoring, statistical and evaluation systems and capacity, promoting the adoption of personal data protection standards.

41. Programme monitoring will focus on tracking programme outcomes and those of the UNSDCF, using information systems and data from public institutions and strategic partners. This will be complemented by field visits, reports, consultations, surveys and feedback mechanisms to foster learning and adaptive management. Lessons from the evaluation of the 2022–2026 country programme guided the new programme towards cross-sectoral priorities, taking an integrated approach to factors influencing outcomes for children. The periodic review of evidence with institutions and partners will allow for strategy adjustments and the acceleration of results.

42. In accordance with the costed evaluation plan, UNICEF will conduct strategic evaluations in priority areas of the country programme. The findings will contribute to learning, accountability and continuous programme improvement.

Annex

Results and resources framework

El Salvador – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, March 2027–December 2031

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 2–6, 12, 15, 17–20, 23, 24, 27–29 and 40

National priorities: National Policy for the Integrated Protection of Children and Adolescents; Growing Together (*Crecer Juntos*) Law; Growing Together (*Crecer Juntos*) National Policy for Early Childhood Development

Sustainable Development Goals: 3–6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16 and 17

UNSDCF outcomes involving UNICEF: (1) Integrated health and quality services; (2) Lifelong education; (3) Adaptive social protection; (6) Sustainable food systems; (8) Green and adaptive economies; (9) Peace and security

Related Impact Results of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029: 1, 2, 4 and 5

UNSDCF outcomes	*UNICEF outcomes*	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative 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, 3	1. By 2031, children in their first decade of life grow up in stronger family and care environments with parenting practices that promote their wellbeing and development.	Percentage of children who are developmentally on track for their age, as measured by the official Early Childhood Development Index B: 82.6% (2021) T: 84% Percentage of children and adolescents aged 1–14 years who were subjected to psychological aggression and/or physical punishment by their caregivers during the last month B: 54.5% (2021) T: 50%	National Survey on Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence; Growing Together (*Crecer Juntos*) Policy; National Policy for the Integrated Protection of Children and Adolescents; Multi-Purpose Household Survey	1.1 By 2031, institutional capacity and mechanisms to support family strengthening are scaled up and improved, with a focus on integrated care and the mental health of children and caregivers. 1.2 By 2031, families and caregivers of children in their first decade of life have increased capacity and knowledge to adopt good parenting practices[a] and to request and use the services available.	Office of the First Lady; CONAPINA; Growing Together (*Crecer Juntos*) Institute	1 250	5 000	6 250

UNSDCF outcomes	*UNICEF outcomes*	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative 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, 6, 8, 9	2. By 2031, children and adolescents in their second decade of life grow up in environments that promote their well-being, participation and resilience.	Secondary school net enrolment rate B: 47% (2023) T: 56.1% Percentage of young people (15–29 years) not in education, employment or training B: 22.6% (2023) T: 15% Percentage of adolescents aged 13–17 years with severe symptoms of major depression B: 29.5% (2022) T: 27%	Voluntary National Review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; National Mental Health Survey; National Survey on Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence; Multi-Purpose Household Survey	2.1 By 2031, children and adolescents in their second decade of life have better opportunities to access and complete educational pathways and develop skills for learning and their transition to adulthood. 2.2 By 2031, more children and adolescents in their second decade of life have access to expanded, quality mental health services for their emotional and psychosocial well-being. 2.3 By 2031, services and mechanisms for the prevention of, care following, response to and reparations for violence affecting children and adolescents in their second decade of life are strengthened, promoting changes in social norms and the behaviour of duty bearers, especially regarding peer violence, sexual violence and online violence. 2.4 By 2031, children and adolescents in their second decade of life have increased knowledge, skills and attitudes to adopt behaviours that facilitate healthy lifestyles. 2.5 By 2031, children and adolescents in their second	CONAPINA; Office of the First Lady; Ministry of Education, Science and Technology; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources; Directorate of Integration; General Directorate of Civil Protection; Supreme Court of Justice	2 500	13 250	15 750

UNSDCF outcomes	*UNICEF outcomes*	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative 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*
				decade of life have increased capacity and more opportunities for meaningful participation that contribute to the design and use of mechanisms for climate action and disaster risk management.				
	3. By 2031, the programme is effectively managed to accelerate and scale up sustainable results for children and adolescents through stronger strategic partnerships, advocacy and dialogue on public policies, evidence generation and use, communication, social and behaviour change, innovation and resource mobilization.	Percentage of management and programme indicators progressing as planned		4.3 Planning, monitoring, evaluation and evidence generation 3.2 Communications, advocacy and partnerships 3.3 Social and behaviour change		1 250	1 500	2 750
Total resources						**5 000**	**19 750**	**24 750**

[a] Nurturing, responsive and protective caregiving practices, positive interactions, play and learning experiences.