

Costa Rica

Update on the context and situation of children

Costa Rica is an upper middle-income country with notable progress in human development as a result of its universal social protection programs. Nevertheless, the country faces an accelerated increase in inequality, which has been intensified by the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. During 2019 and at the onset of 2020, the double blow of the central government's fiscal insolvency and the country's economic slowdown, which diminished tax revenue and social security pay-ins, eroded the funding sources for many key areas of human development such as social institutions and focalized anti-poverty social programmes.

Children and adolescents account for nearly 31% of the total population of 5 million habitants. Three out of every ten children are in the 0-5 and 6-12 age ranges, while the remaining 40% are between the ages of 13 and 17. The country is nearing the end of its demographic dividend with an increasingly older population, which will bring a gradual rise in the rates of dependence and therefore greater challenges to education and care during childhood and old age.

According to the National Household Survey (ENAHO) conducted in July 2020 by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC), the incidence of monetary poverty reached 26.2% of households. Female-headed households are more likely to be poor as 39.6% of not-poor households said they had a female head, compared to 45.5% of poor households and 48.1% households in condition of extreme poverty (INEC, 2020). Likewise, nearly 32% of all children and adolescents live in monetary poverty, of which 12% live in extreme poverty.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a considerable decrease in the average family income and consumption. A single finding regarding the adverse effect on food consumption showed that the share of households with children that consumed three or more meals a day had fallen from 97% before COVID-19 to 82% in July 2020. Some 30% of households with children reported having reduced their food portions.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the country already faced a huge challenge in promoting early childhood development. According to the 2017 Survey on Women, Children and Adolescents (EMNA/MICS), the school net attendance rate for early childhood is 44%; 52% for the wealthiest quintile compared to 41% in the poorest quintile. The same social inequalities are evidenced through the Early Childhood Development Index, as 93% of children 3-4 years from the wealthiest quintile showed an adequate level of physical, emotional, and intellectual development while only 69% in the poorest quintile.

Concerning the education sector, according to the 2019 ENAHO, 17.3% of adolescents between 13 and 17 years of age from poor households didn't attend a regular education program, while only 3.8% in non-poor households. Regarding school backwardness, the percentage is estimated at 33.2% for children and adolescents between 7 and 17 years of age living in poverty, while for the non-poor in this same age group the percentage is distinctly less (11.0%).

Following the first detected cases of COVID-19, primary and secondary school attendance in classes were cancelled and reintegration is not foreseen until February 2021. According to official data from the Ministry of Public Education, at the end of the 2020 school year, of the 1,178,825 students enrolled, 20,843 students completed the year as "inactive" and 22,340 students as "unreported". From the 1,135,522 students defined as "active", 63% reported having problems accessing the required electronic devices, materials and/or the internet connection required for effectively participating in the

Aprendo en Casa (I Learn at Home) remote learning programme, suggesting widespread challenges for the realization of their education rights, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

The gap in access to technologies, according to the EMNA-MICS Survey of 2017, indicates that 56% of households have a computer and 69% have internet at home. Important inequalities are evident between rural and urban areas and between socioeconomic groups: 63% of households in urban areas have a home computer compared to 40% in rural areas; 98% of households in the wealthiest quintile have a computer at home, compared to 18% in the lowest wealth quintile. Regarding Internet access at home, 37% of households in the lowest wealth quintile have this service, while in the wealthiest quintile it ascends to 98%.

Before COVID-19, corporal punishment and humiliating treatment towards children posed a serious social challenge. Nationally, 46% of children from 1 to 14 years of age have experienced a least one form of physical or psychological abuse by their parents or caregivers; this practice is more prevalent among heads of families without education (53%) than among those with an education (47%). A quarter of the people surveyed (24%) consider that physical punishment is necessary and of these, more men (24%) than women (15%) approve this practice (EMNA/MICS, 2017).

During 2020, administrative data from different sources confirms the growing number of child and adolescent victims of multiple forms of violence. During the first quarter of 2019, according to the record of reports made to the Child Welfare Institute (PANI) on situations that threaten or violate the rights of children, the number of these victims was approximately 20,122. For the same period in 2020, the number was 22,122, representing a total increase of 2,340 reports - almost 12% more.

The following are other worsening situations affected by COVID-19 that have impacted children and adolescents: a) reduced health services due to the institutional suspension of such services (as nutrition and check-ups for healthy children, among others); b) a shrinking labour market that has most affected vulnerable populations and youth (almost 50% of persons aged 15-24 are unemployed); c) negative impacts on indigenous populations, ranging from needs for food and access to hygiene supplies and personal protection equipment to problems with availability and access to technology for education, as well as access to potable water supply, among other needs; and d) negative impacts on the mental health of adolescents and youth.

Major contributions and drivers of results

INCLUSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

Inclusive Quality Education

During 2020, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Public Education's (MEP) Unit for Educational Permanence, Retention and Success (UPRE) by designing a national strategy against educational exclusion based on a qualitative and quantitative analysis of exclusion determinants. UNICEF will support its implementation in 2021.

In line with the 2018-2022 National Development and Public Investment Plan, which emphasized the importance of strengthening the National Institute of Apprenticeship (INA) to help reduce unemployment, UNICEF contributed to its design of an institutional strategy against educational exclusion. This effort takes in account that INA has approximately 7000 students between 15 and 19 years old, which will be launched in 2021 to support permanence and success in its educational programs.

In support of hospitalized children and adolescents, UNICEF teamed up with the Hospital Pedagogy Support Centre (CeAPH) of the National Children's Hospital (serves a monthly population of around 700 students ranging in ages from 4 to 17 years) for strengthening its educational planning and evaluation tools, procurement of specialized materials and the design of a virtual module designed for capacity-building of teachers working in hospitals.

Early Childhood Development

UNICEF and the National Child Care and Development Network (REDCUDI) implement a comprehensive programme that focuses on the right to integrated childcare, including early childhood education, and the progressive universalization, accreditation, sustainability, and improved quality of child development and care services. As part of this process, which clearly accelerates the results aimed by SDG target 4.2, a certification and quality recognition system were developed and implemented in 1,344 childcare centers - serving 56,945 children around the country. UNICEF also helped design a basic care package that contains the minimum set of childcare and development services for the beneficiary populations, identifying the essential services that are already provided (coverage and quality) and estimating unit costs and existing gaps.

As in 2020 there was an increase in the levels of violence experienced by children in their homes, UNICEF supported campaigns to promote caring and positive parenting for mothers, fathers and caregivers, increasing the REDCUDI's community reach by 40% and social media interactivity by more than 105%.

To build the capacity of frontline workers, UNICEF and the Centres for Child Nutrition and Education (CEN-CINAI) prepared a manual for the construction of peaceful environments and management of violent situations in their centers, which was distributed in 491 CEN-CINAIs that provide services to 25,092 children.

UNICEF supported the National Institute for Social Care (IMAS) in its NIDO model that provides comprehensive care for pregnant women households in extreme poverty, from pregnancy to 36 months of age of children, through advocacy, technical assistance reviewing the materials and concepts and building the definition of the indicator monitoring process.

CHILD PROTECTION

Violence Prevention Models and Changing Social Norms

Working with the MEP, in 2020 UNICEF continued to implement the Listening Rooms model, which is being consolidated as a valuable resource for reducing and preventing school violence and educational exclusion. The model was implemented in 24 schools, reaching 1,369 students who received psychosocial care for building their life skills and improving their physical and mental health.

In consonance with SDG 16 and the National Agenda for the Prevention of Violence and Promotion of Social Peace (2019-2022), UNICEF and the Viceministry of Peace (Vicepaz) developed the virtual CARDT (culture, art, recreation, sports, and technology) model and piloted it in communities prioritized for their high levels of violence (700 adolescents participated). UNICEF also provided technical assistance to Vicepaz for strengthening its mental health programs and strategies, and to this respect, a support line was created to provide psychosocial attention for children and adolescents participating in the seven Civic Centres for Peace throughout the national territory.

UNICEF also continued to support the HALCOM (Forging Community Alliances) model, in order to prevent family separation and promote family integration. This model provides psychological and social work assistance to help children and adolescents better manage their emotions and empower

themselves through the development of their life projects. Around 100 adolescents in three prioritized communities benefitted from this protection model. In 2020 UNICEF worked in close collaboration with PANI's San Jose South Regional Office, Aldeas S.O.S and Acción Joven Foundation.

Given the increased incidence of self-inflicted violence among adolescents, UNICEF partnered with the Viceministry of Health, Vicepaz, the Viceministry of Youth, and community associations to develop the mental health network model, REDESSAM, with the aim of enhancing civil society capacities for implementing prevention measures directly in neighbourhoods. The model was implemented in the municipalities of Tarrazú, Dota and Leon Cortés, being its main result the development of an interinstitutional protocol for the prevention and response to cases of self-inflicted violence. In 2020 the Ministry of Health expressed its interest in upscaling this model nationwide.

SOCIAL INCLUSION, PUBLIC ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

Monitoring and Evaluation

In partnership with MIDEPLAN and the University of Costa Rica, UNICEF supported the development of an evaluation guide for interventions, policies, and programs on children and adolescents. The purpose of this guide is to encourage the constant evaluation of key public policies and programmes with a child and adolescent focus, using UNICEF's global evaluation standards. Also in this area, two evaluations were completed, the first one for the National Agenda for Children and Adolescents 2017-2021, which provides valuable recommendations for formulating the new National Policy and Agenda for Children and Adolescents to be developed in 2021, and the second one for the Child Friendly Municipalities programme, providing feedback for further scaling up and consolidating the programme.

As part of UNICEF's support for the universalization of ECD services, UNICEF supported REDCUDI in the development of its georeferenced information system, providing a valuable platform for easily monitoring and analyzing the coverage and quality of ECD services across the country.

Knowledge Generation and Management

In compliance with General Observation No. 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), in partnership with PANI and the University of Costa Rica, UNICEF developed and launched the national methodology and first estimation of public expenditure on children and adolescents in Costa Rica. It was a critical step to understand the allocation of resources for children and identify gaps and needs. This process will continue in 2021, as PANI will strengthen its capacities for leading the yearly implementation of the methodology and analysis. Results from the study have proven to be key for advocating for children rights during fiscal negotiations.

On 2020, UNICEF established its first volunteering program, in alliance with PANI, REDCUDI and Parque de La Libertad. The INSPIRA "Inspire" volunteer programme trained 90 families from communities with high rates of violence against children with techniques for positive parenting and provided up-to-date and truthful information on the importance of comprehensive and violent-free early childhood development. At the end of the process, the 37 volunteers facilitated more than 150 virtual workshops (after receiving their own training of more than 30 hours), sensitizing and providing useful parenting tools to 89 mothers, fathers and caretakers, with a direct impact on 139 children.

Communication and Advocacy

UNICEF has increased its voice, scope, and presence as a technical authority on children's matters in social media, communication media, and other impact spaces. The following results stand out: i) live broadcast of 27 virtual activities, including nine sessions of dialogues concerning the participation rights of children and adolescents; conclusion of the INSPIRA volunteer programme; International

Day of the Girl Child; and World Children's Day, and dialogues on mental health support tools for adolescents and young people; **ii**) dissemination in social media of more than 900 messages reaching almost 37 million people nation-wide, leading to a 38.7% increase in total followers compared to 2019. Press coverage included more than 50 notes in national, regional, and international media. A milestone was the publication of a photo report on children and COVID-19 on the BBC international news channel; **iii**) 216,302 visits to the new UNICEF Costa Rica website as of December 2020, of which 95% were new users and the rest repeat users, resulting in more than 5,000 visits monthly; **iv**) participation by UNICEF, together with different U.N. agencies, in the issuing of close to 19 press releases nationally, with publication of close to 50 publications in more than 20 media outlets; and **v**) Celebrations of the World Children's Day included the Ministry of Health takeover; two videoclips about REIMAGINE global campaign and a children digital magazine talking about how they are coping with COVID-19, and illumination of the Presidential Palace, reaching more than 500,000 people on social media. The videos were shared more than 90,000 times.

Adolescent Empowerment: Generation Unlimited

In partnership with public institutions and civil society organizations, the Generation Unlimited strategy was implemented in the reporting year under the leadership of the Costa Rican Vice President Epsy Campbell, a Gen U Champion, leading to significant progress on the following areas: 1) Public policy formulation with a youth and climate action approach, with the publication of the 2020-2024 Public Youth Policy and its action plan; 2) Strengthening of human rights knowledge and youth empowerment, life skills, and employability capacities of 226 adolescents and young people, innovating in the use of virtual platforms and participatory methodologies within the framework of the "I am Courage" (*Soy Valentía*) and "Make Yourself Felt" (*Hacete Sentir*) initiatives; 3) Knowledge generation on the youth and the COVID-19 pandemic prevention, attention and care, with the "Good Vibes" (*En Buena Nota*) communication campaign; 4) Advocacy and capacity-building of youth organizations through the creation of a model and toolkit for climate empowerment and youth employability and the inclusion of youth perspective in the updating of the NDCs; 5) Enhance public authorities, universities, civil society organizations and Costa Rican adolescents and young person's knowledge of children and adolescents right to participation through the creation of nine virtual knowledge and know-how dialogues and the First National Youth Symposium; and 6) UNICEF strengthened its partnerships with civil society for fomenting the U-Report platform as a tool for identifying the knowledge, attitudes and practices of the adolescent and youth people related on climate change, COVID-19, nutrition, and other topics.

Emergency response and humanitarian action

To address the risk of educational exclusion during the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF supported the I Learn at Home (*Aprendo en Casa*) and Return (*Regresar*) strategies of the Ministry of Public Education, helping 17.62% (207,759) of the students access home learning guides. UNICEF developed 500 two-minute videos for broadcasting in two national channels and supported 4,863 preschool vulnerable children access educational materials.

In addition to high level advocacy for a safe return to school, UNICEF has contributed to making the return to classes safer for 21.6% of the students (256,229 students). With USAID funds (\$555,556) and in coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica, UNICEF has provided 642 schools with critical hygiene supplies and the development of a strategy and protocol (translated in 6 indigenous languages and Braille) for the safe return to classes.

UNICEF was able to increase support lines for children and adolescents who needed someone to listen to and advise them in order to overcome the anxiety and depression caused by confinement and, in many cases, home crowding. In coordination with its allies, the "Here I am" helpline supported directly more than 1000 children and adolescents. In an alliance between PANI and the 9-1-1 emergency response helpline, UNICEF has comprehensively improved the 911 reporting services by

developing a cell phone app that provides geo-location and messaging service.

UNICEF provided robust assistance through the purchase of hygiene inputs to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In coordination with the National Emergency Committee (CNE), PANI, and the Office of the Vice President, humanitarian health protection kits were procured and delivered to children living in families and environments at high risk of infection. Around 4,000 persons in street situations or living in cramped quarters, 400 Indigenous persons, and 2,920 victims of hurricanes Iota and Eta were benefitted.

UNICEF worked together with an intersectoral committee formed by PANI, the General Directorate for Migration and Foreign Affairs, PAHO, IOM and UNHRC on updating and disseminating care protocols for migrant children and adolescents. The protocols provided public agencies with expedited processes, avoiding the deportation or exposure of children with risk of COVID-19 infection. Psychosocial support, COVID-19 prevention kits and learning/recreational materials were also provided to all the children and adolescents (49) stranded in Temporary Attention Centers for Migrant Persons.

Gender focus

UNICEF's work in Costa Rica mainstreaming a gender-focused approach to programming had important progress in 2020.

Two studies supporting child situational analysis with a gender perspective were concluded: a situational analysis of children, adolescents and young people with a gender lenses, and an in-depth analysis of the EMNA/MICS survey from a gender approach, in conjunction with UN Women. Both studies will enable the development of evidence-based policies that can directly address gender issues at their root causes.

Another achievement in 2020 was the support to several awareness-raising activities concerning different manifestations of gender inequalities. UNICEF and its partners, including the UN Gender Interagency Group, developed and successfully participated in numerous campaigns and outreach activities such as the International Day of the Girl Child and 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

The empowerment and participation of young women was also a key priority which was promoted through innovative all-women digital initiatives as Nosotras Woman Connecting and Soy Valentia. In this line, UNICEF worked to strengthen the advocacy and work capacity of the ALAKOLPA BRIBRI WAK TECHOK federation of indigenous women for defending and protecting their rights.

Operational and Programme Effectiveness

The area of Operations was fundamental for the achievement of programmatic results especially due to the support provided for the emergency efforts in delivering much needed goods (over 125,000 items) to counterparts and partners in an expedited manner. Operations team put in place new and functional mechanisms for the procurement of supplies and services, built the capacity of UNICEF staff on supplies procurement and advised the team and partners when needed. Operations also closely monitored and efficiently processed the office increased cash flow of more than \$2.3 million US dollars in the reporting year (an increase of 20% from 2019).

HR has provided significant support to the team with the timely recruitment of consultants and increased support to staff members through a total of 1200 hours of HR support.

ICT support has been enhanced due to the support on Technology for Development for programmes

that are including innovative interventions such as chat bots and remote learning platforms.

In the realm of interagency support and networking UNICEF Costa Rica, the Representative took the lead role of the Committee and has supported the work to achieve the Salary Survey Committee that defines new salary scales for all UN staff members. On the BOS initiative the role of leader and expert for the transition into the BOS 2.0 system was in the hands of our Finance Associate who successfully led all the agencies to deliver their content into the tool and completed all validation checks of the information on time in July 2020.

UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

In response to the first call for proposals on SDG Financing by the UN Joint SDG Fund, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNICEF, with support from the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, successfully developed a joint programme centered on strengthening of the financing architecture of the SDGs in Costa Rica with a specific focus on improving public spending in the education sector. The proposal was awarded a \$1,000,000 grant for a two-year implementing period, calling to accelerate the strengthening of SDG integrated national financing framework.

The COVID-19 pandemic reinforced UNICEF's commitment for working within the UN framework, drawing on our comparative advantage and collective ability to attain more and better results for children. The Resident Coordinator led the system-wide humanitarian response, activating the UN Crisis Work Group with UNICEF participation. The UN Technical Emergency Team (UNETE) proved to be a very valuable space for interagency coordination and cooperation. UNICEF centered its support on the strengthening of institutions and multisectoral strategies, prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable children and adolescents in close partnerships with key national institutions, local protection systems and the child-friendly cities platform.

The Academia – specifically the University of Costa Rica – has been a valuable ally on the development of an innovative methodology to measure public spending on children and adolescents, as per CRC's General Recommendation No. 19. Its highly technical expertise and social commitment for generating knowledge in strategic areas of national development, have leveraged University's vast know-how towards a central advocacy area of UNICEF country programme.

As a strategy to expand the development and implementation of child policies and programmes at the local level, UNICEF has intensified its intersectoral strategic alliance with the Institute of Municipal Development and Assistance, PANI, local governments and the CSO Costa Rican Coalition of Social Organizations for the Monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which led to the reinforcement of the Child Friendly Cities initiative.

In response to the increase of mental health issues among adolescents, and Executive Decree # 4128 (2018) which declared the advancement of mental health as a national priority, UNICEF forged a coalition with MoH, Viceministry of Peace, National Psychiatric Hospital, local governments and community development associations of the Los Santos Region to develop and implement the REDESSAM pilot programme, providing an interinstitutional work protocol for preventing self-inflicted violence and responding to mental health ailments of children and adolescents.

UNICEF's partnership with USAID and the US Embassy in Costa Rica led to the mobilization of \$800,000 in support of the national safe reopening of schools, scheduled for February 2021. In close coordination with the MoE and the MoH, the funding was used for the procurement of critical hygiene and PPE supplies for a little more than one fifth of all enrolled students, focusing in the most marginalized communities, and in the development, printing and dissemination of crucial COVID-19 prevention protocols and communication materials – including their translation to 6 indigenous languages and adaptation for children with auditory and visual disabilities.

Lessons Learned and Innovations

Programme flexibility and adaptability were a paramount in the reporting year, ensuring that UNICEF would fulfill its obligation with children and adolescents no matter how serious and profound the crisis was. Within few days, all staff and partners had to work remotely to cope with the COVID-19 emergency, shifting the presential field and office work to the digital platforms and, at the same time,

assessing the impact of the pandemic on children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable ones.

Within this new scenario, the office has embarked in a critical emergency response in close coordination with the National Emergency Commission (CNE) and the UN agencies. ***For the first time in decades, the office has procured over 125,000 Education, Child Protection and WASH supplies, including Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and implemented other emergency activities, including local coordination with partners to ensure children were protected against the infection and the increased cases of violence and negligence, including GBV and sexual abuse.*** UNICEF rapidly engaged with the MoE to support the development of a home-based learning programme, called 'Aprendo en Casa' and highly advocated for the schools reopening in coordination with PANI, UNESCO, UNFPA and the RCO. Schools will reopen in February 2021. Around 256,229 students from 642 prioritized schools (21% of national enrollment) were directly supported by UNICEF, USAID and the American Embassy with WASH supplies for a safe return to classes.

The regular programme was adapted to virtual platforms and a series of capacity building activities implemented across the sectors, supporting partners to work digitally and ensuring that the trainings would be effectively implemented. The office has agreed to use one single digital platform for trainings, allowing inter-sectoral and multisectoral learnings which has proved to be a good way to promote integrated programme approaches.

UNICEF innovated in Costa Rica by utilizing U-Report as a digital tool for real-time monitoring of adolescent and young people's wellbeing and providing mental health support. Results from April and September showed an increase from 11% to 29% of adolescents and YP feeling depressed; from 4% to 14% feeling worried about themselves; while anxiety had decreased from 34% to 31%. Nearly half of them also had pessimistic perception about their future. In partnership with the Youth and Culture Ministry, Professional Association of Psychology, Red Cross and NGOs like Parque La Libertad, Red de Juventudes y Cambio Climático y La Ruta del Clima, Women Connecting and the Scouts, UNICEF has implemented several online programmes with and for adolescents and YP, providing direct support through mental health activities and empowering them to cope with the challenges imposed by COVID-19. Around 226 adolescents and YP, most of them girls, were directly engaged in life skills, entrepreneurship and youth engagement activities, raising their voices and concerns on issues that affect their lives and developing community-based projects. Online mental health sessions have reached 120 adolescents directly and 14,500 people via Facebook. A hotline service for children and adolescent was also established in partnership with the Professional Association of Psychology.

UNICEF and partners have engaged, for the first time, 37 volunteers who directly supported 139 children under the age of 5 years old and 89 mothers, fathers and caretakers from vulnerable communities nation-wide. Young professionals like nurses, psychologists, teachers, artists and lawyers were trained by the new UNICEF Costa Rica INSPIRA Volunteer Programme and devoted their knowledge, time and attention to support children's full development, even from remote, teaching parents and caretakers how to take care of them, to stimulate their physical, emotional and cognitive development and create a violence-free and protective environment for children within their homes and communities. In a time when kindergartens and schools were closed and violence against children was on the rise, the volunteers' support were essential to help parents to cope with the unprecedented situation and protect their children from violence, enjoying the interactions with the little ones through games, low-cost educative toys and dialogue. Results from the programme's exit survey showed that only two weeks after the workshops, the percentage of families that had implemented positive parenting techniques as reading books, assessing child's feelings and increased quality playtime had increased in more than 40%. In 2021 UNICEF will expand the reach of INSPIRA, in coordination with its allies.

Another new programmatic approach initiated in 2020 was the development of a national

methodology to measure public budget for children and adolescent on a yearly basis. Through an alliance between a government institution (National Child Welfare Agency /PANI), the academy (University of Costa Rica) and UNICEF, a methodological approach for measurement of public budget for children and adolescents were developed and implemented, engaging over 60 institutions. It was a participatory study, providing disaggregated data. The project seeks to promote effectiveness, efficiency, equity and transparency in decision-making related to public budget, as recommended by the Observation number 19 of the Child Rights Committee. It informs how public resources are invested, allowing decision-makers to take evidence-based decisions that contribute to reducing the social inequalities that affect many children and adolescents, especially those from indigenous, afro-descendants and migrant communities. The total public resources dedicated to children and adolescents was 4,347 million US dollars equivalent to 8.3% of GDP, and on average almost 3,263 dollars per child per year. Most of the funds went to Education (60.6%); followed by Health (20.6%); Justice & Security (7.8%); Social Protection (6.8%); Housing and other community services (3.1%); Recreation, Sports and Culture (0.6%); Environmental Protection (0.4); Science and Technology (0.1%). The disaggregation according to group of child rights shows that 63.9% of the resources contributed to the right to development, 26.3% to survival, 9.2% to protection, and 0.6% of participation.

A critical lesson is the need to enhance the digital inclusion work and expand the virtual platforms established in 2020, amplifying the programme reach and diminishing the digital gaps to ensure that all children and adolescents have internet connection and access to a device. Additionally, the office will further invest in the development and emergency nexus to strengthen the adaptability of UNICEF programmes and operations.