

## Bolivia, Plurinational State of

### Update on the context and situation of children

The Plurinational State of Bolivia – an ethnically and culturally diverse lower-middle-income country, with 37 indigenous groups – had improved the well-being of its population of 11.8 million up to 2019. Advances towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs), such as the reduction of infant mortality and better educational enrolment rates, were reflected in the first SDG Voluntary National Review in 2021.

However, Bolivia's 2019 electoral crisis led to presidential power changing hands twice in the last three years, which coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic and the end of the country's long-term commodities boom of minerals and hydrocarbons. As a result, the country plunged into an economic downturn that could reverse the socioeconomic gains of previous years. Bolivia ended 2020 with a GDP decrease of 8.8% and the worst recession in 66 years (INE, 2021).

Poverty increased from 37.2% in 2019 to 39% in 2020 after the onset of the pandemic, while extreme poverty increased from 12.9% to 13.7% during the same period (INE, 2021). Estimated poverty in households with children and adolescents was higher than the national poverty rate: child poverty would have increased from 47.8% to 50.0% between 2019 and 2020 and extreme child poverty from 17.5% to 19.0% (Fundación Aru, 2021). Meanwhile, persistent social disparities – particularly linked to gender, ethnicity and geographic location – continued to blight economic prospects and intensify exclusion for poor and vulnerable families and their children.

After the current administration's first year, some improvements are noticeable. The economy expanded (INE, 2021), reaching 12 months of growth (1.43% in June 2021). Similarly, unemployment decreased from 10.8% in the third quarter of 2020 to 6.3% in the third quarter of 2021 (INE, 2021). Unconditional cash-transfers (Bono Contra el Hambre) continued to mitigate the loss of family incomes and allowed progress towards the goal of 'leaving no one behind'. However, the sustainability of these improvements is at risk due to economic fragility and social conflict in the country and region.

Economic instability impacted children and adolescents directly because national and subnational administrations had fewer resources to invest in them. For example, due to internal budget readjustments because of the pandemic and lower state revenues, the Ministry of Education's (MoE) budget suffered a 14.5% reduction between 2020 and 2021, while municipal budgets decreased by 19% during the same period, although the overall budget grew by 4.7% (Ministry of Economy, 2021).

In education, suspension of face-to-face classes created a lag in educational coverage, which particularly affected the most vulnerable children who were unable to access remote learning opportunities. In 2021, the MoE reported that 59% of schools offered in-person classes in October 2021 and 41% of schools offered remote or blended (part remote, part in-person) classes. During 2020, an estimated 42.6% of public primary and 42.2% of public secondary school students participated in blended or distance learning, compared with 64% of private primary and 61% of private secondary school students. Additionally, 32.8% of rural primary and 26.2% of rural secondary students would have participated in blended or distance learning, compared with 45.5% of urban primary and 42.4% of urban secondary students (Fundación Aru, 2021).

Due to the pandemic, many secondary school students felt pressure to seek employment to financially support their families, which affected their ability to complete their education. Between November 2019 and November 2020, there was a 58% increase in the number of employed children and

adolescents. Of these, 74% were between 14–17 years of age (Fundación Aru, 2021).

The pandemic disrupted children's, adolescent's, and women's rights to health-care services such as immunizations, prenatal care, assisted childbirth and dental care. For example, despite efforts by the current administration, UNICEF and PAHO, immunization coverage did not return to pre-pandemic levels in 2021 and, in some cases, decreased. Comparing year-over-year vaccination rates between January and September of 2019 and 2021, vaccinations of children under 1-year-old decreased by 15.6%, and for children between 12–23 months, vaccination levels were still 11.3% below pre-pandemic levels (SNIS-VE, 2021).

Isolation measures forced families to remain at home for extended periods of time and increased victims' vulnerability to their aggressors and domestic violence. During 2020, the prosecutor's office reported 30,824 cases of violence against children, adolescents and women (compared with 31,293 in 2019). This reinforces the hypothesis that there was under-registration of domestic violence in 2020 due to the reduced capacity of service providers because of pandemic-related restrictions. In 2021, 34,893 cases were reported, showing that domestic violence continues to be a pressing issue despite national prevention efforts.

The pandemic limited children's and adolescents' opportunities to socialize with peers. This affected their mental health, evidenced by increased stress, anxiety and depression levels. Data from the UNICEF-designed 'Safe-Family' helpline showed that, from April 2020 to December 2021, more than 48,000 children, adolescents and adults (68% girls/women, 32% boys/men) called for psycho-emotional help or reported cases of violence.

In addition to COVID-19, children and adolescents faced multiple humanitarian crises in 2021 that affected their development and the realization of their rights. Wildfires destroyed 1.9 million hectares in the Chiquitania region. Also, Venezuelan migration to Bolivia increased by 90%, from 10,000 migrants in 2020 to 19,000 migrants in 2021 (IOM, 2021); this included 2,791 Venezuelan migrant children who entered the country without documentation, limiting their access to education, health and protection services, and putting their development and lives at risk.

Finally, Bolivia's COVID-19 vaccination process advanced, with some challenges. Even though the country benefits from the COVAX mechanism, and acquired directly enough vaccines, the Ministry of Health (MoH) data of 16 January 2022 showed that Bolivia had one of the lowest COVID-19 vaccination rates in South America: 54% of the population had received a first dose and 41.5% were fully vaccinated. These low rates can be attributed to anti-vaccination groups and misinformation that created barriers to immunization acceptance, while vaccination coverage in rural areas was challenging due to difficulties establishing proper cold chain management (MoH, 2021). Furthermore, information outreach did not always reach displaced populations and migrants.

## Major contributions and drivers of results

During the Country Programme's fourth year, UNICEF positioned child rights, the 2030 agenda and 'leaving no child behind' squarely on the agendas of the new authorities and the public while strengthening risk-informed systems and emergency programming using a humanitarian-development nexus approach. The Bolivia Country Office continued promoting intersectoral policies and models for integrated early childhood and adolescent development; helped restore quality health, nutrition, and education services; increased access to mental health and protection services; and ensured adolescents and communities participated in climate action and municipal-level water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes. UNICEF also adjusted to the new national Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES), approved in October 2021, and worked to integrate a child and adolescent rights-based

approach into new sectoral and subnational plans.

### **Goal Area 1: Every child survives and thrives**

In 2021, more than 1.5 million children and adolescents accessed continuous essential health and nutrition services that were more resilient to humanitarian crises – including immunization services, micronutrient supplementation/counselling for pregnant/lactating women and young children, child development monitoring, prenatal care, assisted deliveries and comprehensive adolescent care.

In 2021, approximately 166,044 (70%) of children under 1 year of age received the pentavalent vaccine, 132,153 (55%) received MMR vaccines and 672,763 (42%) of 1–4-year-olds received Vitamin-A. UNICEF supported this work by strengthening the Expanded Programme on Immunization and the Micronutrients Programme with capacity-building, supplies, vaccination and communication campaigns.

Within the COVAX mechanism, UNICEF delivered COVID-19 vaccines; strengthened cold chain management through equipment supply and capacity building, supported vaccination campaigns; and provided biosafety supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE) and diagnostic tests to health facilities.

UNICEF promoted and contributed to improve COVID-19 vaccination coverage, particularly in municipalities with the lowest rates, through partnerships with the MoH, municipal administrations and the private sector. Immunization information campaigns and audio-visual assets were developed and broadcasted nationally via social and traditional media, including in indigenous languages.

In maternal and newborn health, 45 health facilities were newly accredited as Baby-and Mother Friendly Services, bringing the accredited total to 10% (338) of health facilities nationwide. UNICEF helped establish Breastfeeding Committees in six departments and supported 241 health facilities in 147 of 340 municipalities to improve their capacities to manage the child and maternal nutrition programme. UNICEF also supported provision of maternal care to 44% (107,000) of pregnant women nationwide and their newborns, providing capacity building, biosafety supplies, PPE and COVID-19 diagnostic tests to 69 health facilities during the pandemic.

In adolescent health, 85,518 (35,644 girls and 22,705 boys) accessed information and comprehensive services to prevent unwanted pregnancy, HIV and violence, representing 79% of the target population in the six prioritized health networks. Similarly, 4,450 adolescents pregnant accessed health care, and 4,108 parents (2,467 women and 1,641 men, 60% of parents in the intervention area) from indigenous communities in Cochabamba learned about prevention of adolescent pregnancy and violence through programming adapted to their contexts. UNICEF provided training and materials to 225 health facilities (100% of prioritized health networks) to reach these results.

The Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD) programme strengthened institutional capacities nationwide while focusing on vulnerable communities' access to quality early childhood services, including nurturing care, early learning, health, nutrition, water, sanitation and child protection. This benefited more than 75,080 children under 5 years of age (39,640 girls and 35,440 boys, or 6% of all Bolivian children in this age group) attending 'bilingual nests' (community early learning spaces for native indigenous languages and Spanish), children with disabilities, children living in prison with their mothers and migrant children. It also benefited 100% of children in two UNICEF-targeted municipalities, El Alto and Independencia, which implemented the UNICEF-supported IECD model. Capacity-building strategies included training 1,793 (100%) public servants from health, child protection and education services in targeted programmes. Furthermore, 300 early childhood development (ECD) centres (100% in two targeted municipalities) were equipped with biosecurity materials to implement COVID-19 protocols.

Finally, UNICEF helped update the IECD policy and institutional framework, deepening cooperation among sectors and subnational levels to provide quality services to children under 5 years of age, while the ECD law proposal is pending for approval. Consequently, the Ministry of Justice refined Ministerial Resolution 040/2021, making early childhood protection a national priority. The IECD Sub-Coordination Council strengthened operations under the Ministry of Justice's leadership with participation of the Ministries of Health, Education, Economy and Planning; departmental and municipal authorities; associations of municipalities; and civil society organizations (CSOs).

## **Goal Area 2: Every child learns**

More than 250,000 children and adolescents returned to 276 schools (23% of all schools in 10 target municipalities), re-establishing their right to education through different educational modalities set by the MoE and supported by UNICEF in four priority departments. This included 50,130 children and adolescents (25,528 female, 24,602 male) who returned to face-to-face classes. Safe return-to-school measures were anchored in guiding principles developed by UNICEF, UNESCO and WFP in 2020 in the 'Key Considerations for Decision Makers' document, which the MoE endorsed.

The PDES' approval triggered development of sectoral plans, including for education. Within this framework, UNICEF reinitiated communication and advocacy with the authorities to ensure continuity of policy and programme efforts. UNICEF successfully advocated for Bolivia to initiate the process to become a member of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). The MoE is now in the second phase: towards accessing GPE funding to develop the new Education Sector Plan. Success in this would be a significant achievement and would reinforce authorities' commitment to making education a national priority in pandemic recovery plans and the PDES. New GPE funding and membership would also enable outcome-level changes in the education sector.

In 2021, teachers improved their knowledge and skills in violence prevention, comprehensive sex education, risk prevention, emergency management and safe return-to-school protocols. A total of 70,057 students (34,994 females, 35,063 males) in 120 schools, out of a total of 220 prioritized schools in 10 municipalities, promoted peaceful coexistence and healthy and responsible sexuality. With UNICEF support, Bolivia's education system developed a better regulatory framework through the rollout of two normative instruments: The Educational Contingency Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence and Ministerial Resolution 2020, which included guidelines to promote peaceful coexistence in schools. These instruments helped reduce risks and situations of violence for students and gave teachers the opportunity to receive specific training on violence prevention and caring for victims of violence in schools. This training course also became part of the Specialized Entity for Continuing Education continuous professional teacher development programme.

Relevant and robust evidence was generated in collaboration with the MoE to inform policy decisions in the education sector. The published studies revealed the pandemic's impact on the sector and on the condition of school infrastructure and were instrumental in advocating for schools to reopen.

## **Goal Area 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation**

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (2021) recommended Bolivia prioritize preventing violence against children. In 2021, 514,501 (12%) children and adolescents (251,728 girls, 262,773 boys) had access to stronger protection services in priority municipalities. UNICEF helped ensure children and families had access to sensitive and adequate child protection and mental health services by continuously adapting interventions to the changing context, supporting relevant capacity-building initiatives and programmes, and developing and implementing specialized tools, guidelines and protocols to establish procedures for diverse and resilient child protection services.

A total of 10,000 child protection and front-line workers (4,562 women, 5,438 men) in 58% of municipalities improved their knowledge and skills to provide child-sensitive services because of UNICEF training and technical support and partnerships with national and subnational authorities, including the Ministry of Justice, Attorney General's Office, Supreme Court (including the School of Judges) and the School of Public Management. Through online and distance courses, UNICEF reached workers in remote and rural areas.

In 2021, more child and adolescent victims of sexual violence accessed child-sensitive justice and remedial services. UNICEF supported this by equipping/providing four Gessel-Chambers in priority municipalities, which helped prevent revictimization during judicial procedures.

The 'Safe-Family' helpline received 22,238 calls in 2021 (35% from children and adolescents). The helpline, established by UNICEF to ensure continuity of child protection services, has received 48,642 calls since its inception in 2020. Of these, 28% of calls were cases of domestic and gender-based violence, followed by emotional disorders, family conflicts and requests for psychoeducational counselling. The 2,641 cases of violence against women and children were referred to municipal child protection services and the police. UNICEF and its partners developed the helpline's referral paths and standard operating procedures to ensure all incidents were directly referred to relevant services. UNICEF advocacy and authorities' political will allowed the helpline to become a key element of the Bolivian Child Protection System in 2021, promoting better access to mental health and violence prevention/response services for children and enabling stronger results at the outcome level.

In 2021, 10,556 vulnerable children and adolescents (6,746 girls, 3,810 boys) and their families received comprehensive support, including psychosocial support, legal advice, design of family development plans, case management, service referrals and access to parenting skills and violence prevention programmes. This UNICEF-supported work focused on hard-to-reach groups that were more affected by the pandemic, including migrants, children living in institutions, child survivors of violence. The interventions included working with indigenous communities using local language and cultural-appropriate strategies. UNICEF, CSOs and subnational administrations also provided family support and contributed to reunification processes.

Finally, 128,279 people, including 40,181 children (20,519 girls, 19,662 boys) in nine priority municipalities, increased their knowledge and capacities to prevent, identify and report violence, including sexual violence and other risks in the family and community. Further, 425 (257 women, 168 men) community members and leaders were empowered to act as agents of change for violence prevention through UNICEF-supported training to promote protective environments for children. These leaders can now better prevent and respond to incidents of violence in their own communities. UNICEF enhanced community-level work by scaling up interventions with Indigenous Community Promoters, Child-Friendly Markets and Child Protection Committees to reach indigenous communities in Pando (Cobija, Sena, Porvenir, and Santa Rosa), Cochabamba (Cochabamba, Puerto Villarroel, Villa Tunari and Chimoré) and Santa Cruz (Montero).

#### **Goal Area 4: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment**

With the participation of children and youth, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Environment and Water (MMAyA), Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth (APMT) and subnational administrations (Montero and Cobija municipalities and the Department of Pando) to develop and monitor child-sensitive climate change and risk management plans/policies (pending for approval). Accordingly, 2,100 children and youth participated in national decision-making and contributed to global declarations linked to the UN Climate Change Conference of Youth 16, UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties 26 and Youth4Climate. UNICEF Bolivia's work with children and youth was directly incorporated into Bolivia's key policy climate instruments: the Plurinational Climate Change Policy, the National Strategy for Climate Empowerment and the new Nationally Determined

Contribution (pending approval).

UNICEF also assisted the APMT and the MMAyA to strengthen curricular and non-curricular education by revising the education system's Transversal Climate Change Programme. Based on lessons learnt through the Resilient Schools model implementation in Santa Cruz department, UNICEF is scaling up this intervention in other territories such as Amazon and Gran Chaco regions and in El Alto municipality.

The MMAyA and 65 other institutions signed a national and subnational action plan to advance SDG6 targets after reviewing results of the national WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool, which addresses service constraints and proposes specific actions to remove them. UNICEF and the Stockholm International Water Institute then helped roll-out this risk-informed action plan to integrate WASH services in schools and health care facilities, promote financial sustainability of services, update regulations, promote comprehensive water resource management, advance planning/execution of sanitation solutions and strengthen sector capacities.

UNICEF continued to pilot a sanitation model for rural communities in Independencia municipality. A total of 301 families, including 772 children and adolescents from 15 communities, participated in the 'Open Defecation Free' pilot campaign/certification, with 144 families building new bathrooms with dry ecological toilets. To advance the certification process in five additional communities, UNICEF helped establish Community Sanitation Committees, and ran messaging on the radio and social networks to create demand for sanitation solutions. UNICEF and partners – Embassy of Sweden, Helvetas, COOPI, Water For People, World Bank, European Union and GIZ – also advocated for the MMAyA to implement the 'Open Defecation Free' strategy nationally.

Finally, in Montero municipality, 140 families (including 23 additional families in 2021) have sanitation solutions linked to a decentralized urban sustainable sanitation system run by the Water and Sanitation Service Provider (EPSA). With UNICEF advocacy and technical assistance, the Montero municipal government foresees investments in 2022 for building Sustainable Urban Decentralized Sanitation Modules. Likewise, Cobija government plans to replicate this model, strengthen EPSA capacities and construct a dry faecal waste treatment plant, which will contribute to the sustainability of these interventions.

### **Goal Area 5: Every child lives has an equitable chance in life**

UNICEF took advantage of the country's medium-term planning cycle as an opportunity to position child rights at the centre of national and subnational planning for the next five years. Accordingly, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Justice to prepare national plans related to children during this planning period, such as the Multisectoral Plan of Childhood 2021–2025 and the National Plan for Early Childhood Development. UNICEF also provided technical input for other sectoral plans, including the Climate Change National Policy and the National Youth Programme for including a focus on vulnerable groups including children and adolescents, and promoting their active participation in policy/programme decision-making at municipal level. Further, UNICEF helped develop child-centred municipal plans in La Paz, Santa Cruz, Independencia, Cobija, Puerto Villarroel, Chimore and Montero, and elaborated territorial development plans in Chimore, Puerto Villarroel and Montero to incorporate results for children.

Recognizing that the institutional response to violence against children in Bolivia is insufficient, in 2021, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women promoted an inter-agency strategy to advocate for greater financing and improve service efficiency in this sector. Based on evidence generated in 2020, the partners also carried out an advocacy plan, facilitated dialogue between key actors and opened an advocacy channel at national/subnational levels with high impact results to date, such as the territorial

management models being used as inputs to reform Law-348, aimed to guarantee a life free of violence for women.

Finally, 16 subnational administrations actively established the Plurinational Committees for Girls, Boys and Adolescents, with 348 children (57% girls). This was possible thanks to Intergenerational Dialogues and Committees in Action, two departmental committees for children, with the support of UNICEF and Act2gether, a CSO with experience in adolescent participation.

### **Programme effectiveness**

During 2021, UNICEF improved planning and management, used evidence to advocate for changes, strengthened cross-sectoral approaches, improved monitoring and evaluation activities, leveraged financing for children and built support from decision-makers and the wider public around child rights. These actions improved programme effectiveness processes despite the challenges to activity implementation and interventions imposed by political turnover and the pandemic.

## **UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships**

For the last four years, UNICEF contributed to UN Development Assistance Framework 2018–2022 results and helped initiate the Common Country Analysis for the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and its evaluation processes. Likewise, UNICEF prepared a comprehensive Situation Analysis (SITAN) document and a thematic SITAN on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in children to inform the next UNICEF Country Programme and the UNSDCF, ensuring that they were risk-informed and conflict-sensitive.

Within the framework of regular and humanitarian programming, Bolivia Country Office is participating in a joint effort with Paraguay and Argentina, monitoring UNICEF's and other UN Agencies' response in the Gran Chaco.

To advocate for children's rights, UNICEF strengthened partnerships across the UN system, leveraging its position as a lead UN agency. Additionally, UNICEF led or co-led UN thematic groups like the Inclusive Social Development Towards Human Development Group, the Monitoring and Evaluation Group; the Interagency Adolescent and Youth Group; the Interculturality, Decolonization and Dismantling Patriarchy Group; and actively participated in the Interagency Committee on Gender Issues.

UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women, within the Joint SDG-Fund Initiative, implemented a programme to improve budgetary allocations and apply efficient management models for violence against children and gender-based violence.

UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR implemented communication programmes for adolescent and young Venezuelan migrants, including 'Uniting-Voices', which used the U-Report platform to share child rights information.

Within the COVAX mechanism, UNICEF and PAHO helped deliver 6.7 million COVID-19 vaccine doses (30% of the total available). UNICEF also strengthened the cold-chain systems through supply and equipment provision, and supported vaccination campaigns as part of the National Vaccination Plan.

UNICEF nurtured new partnerships with civil society and academic institutions to share learning, refer cases, promote access to services and contribute to the child protection 'Safe-Family' helpline.



Thirteen universities agreed to recognize psychology students' internships at the helpline, which provided an invaluable resource to enhance its sustainability.

New partnerships with adolescent/youth organizations (Confederation of Secondary Students of Bolivia, Scouts Association, and the Korean band BTS' followers) increased U-Report users to more than 8,000 people who received inquiries and infobots with relevant information.

UNICEF raised US\$7,044,000 in 2021 – surpassing annual targets – thanks to key funding partners such as the governments of Sweden, Canada, the US and Korea; the EU and ECHO; UNICEF National Committees from Canada, France, Germany, Spain and Switzerland; and individual donors.

The private sector contributed non-financial resources to UNICEF brand positioning and results for children through 16 agreements with important TV-channels, financial institutions, companies, and chambers of commerce. These partners provided access to mass communication channels, amplified messages and helped promote children's rights across a larger geographic area.

UNICEF improved management processes with CSOs and governmental implementing partners, by developing the local 'Innovation for Programme Effectiveness' initiative, updating the CSO platform and guaranteeing the implementation of the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Policy.

Finally, the Country Office contributed to UN common operational initiatives such as the UN-Jobs hiring page, consultancy for Value-Added Tax recovery, common consultancy fee scale and Long-Term Agreements.

## Lessons Learned and Innovations

UNICEF Bolivia continued to adapt and work differently this year, given the continuing pandemic, a newly elected administration and ongoing political tensions. These challenges led to unique innovations and lessons learned, especially linked to making programmes more risk-informed while strengthening humanitarian-development nexus programming.

To improve adolescent health, UNICEF worked with indigenous social organizations and used social communication instruments – such as community theatre – to deliver messages in creative ways. Accordingly, UNICEF effectively shared information on sensitive topics including prevention of adolescent pregnancy and intrafamily violence. This community outreach innovation resulted in strong participation among community members. The productions were both in-person and widely broadcast on the radio, TV channels and social media, expanding their reach during the pandemic.

In education, more than 22,000 teachers (16% of the workforce) increased their digital skills, benefiting more than 70,000 children and adolescents. 3,218 girls and adolescents in vulnerable situations benefited from programmes to increase their knowledge of digital skills and reduce the digital gender gap. This capacity-building made the education system more adaptable to diverse students' needs and resilient to shocks such as school closures. Furthermore, UNICEF encouraged the MoE and the Government Electronics, Technology, Information and Communication Agency (AGETIC) to lead a movement towards including girls in technology. This ensured greater commitment and triggered an ambitious policy to reduce the technology gender gap. The alliance with AGETIC also helped UNICEF to create partnerships with other public entities and the private sector to promote girls' involvement in technology.

In child protection, the UNICEF-designed 'Safe Family' helpline, originally created to address protection issues during the pandemic in 2020, was scaled up and is now a model of strong



humanitarian-development nexus programming because it has become a key element of the Bolivian protection system. It will continue to expand in years to come.

For WASH, new partnerships with the education sector helped promote and improve hygiene practices in the pandemic context and strengthened emergency contingency planning and development programming. The combination of education for entertainment ('edutainment') and a multimedia communication approach using radio, TV and social media in target municipalities improved WASH behaviour change programming, generated demand, improved menstrual hygiene management and helped address environmental protection, even when face-to-face meetings were difficult in 2021. UNICEF will strengthen the WASH-education collaboration and scale up this multimedia approach with municipalities in 2022.

Regarding fundraising, one reason UNICEF Bolivia surpassed resource mobilization targets in 2021 was because it diversified individual donor recruitment channels. This helped to reach 5,800 individual pledge donors, exceeding the 5,000-annual target. Building a partnership with Red UNO, the country's largest TV network, also contributed to individual giving results by building UNICEF brand recognition.

UNICEF was limited in meeting with implementing partners face-to-face or in the field in 2021 due to the pandemic. Instead, the office used distance learning modalities and virtual communication to enable these partnerships to continue to deliver results. UNICEF also adopted virtual processes, such as signing agreements and conducting virtual field visits. In 2021, the country experienced a high turnover of administration counterparts both at national and subnational level – this included the turnover of front-line workers. In response, UNICEF trained new front-line workers, sensitized new leaders and advocated with new counterparts in ministries. UNICEF Bolivia's user-friendly online training system, developed in 2020 and enhanced in 2021, allowed rapid and effective capacity-building delivery. Such systems and mechanisms will continue as an option when appropriate once mobility constraints are lifted, as they are cost-efficient and eco-friendly.

For a broader impact on subnational planning processes, UNICEF partnered with the Bolivian Federation of Municipal Associations to generate child-focused capacity-building processes for local planning in the country's nine departments. Strategies included a virtual campus to promote continuing education for municipal authorities, technical staff and professionals, with a focus on child and adolescent rights and 'leaving no one behind'. This is an enabler of results for children that will be strengthened in 2022 while subnational authorities design their own development plans.

After UNICEF conducted an annual review of its programming in 2021, the team confirmed that despite changes in the programming context the Country Programme, results and strategies agreed upon with national authorities were still relevant. Thus, the office will continue to strive toward the original planned results while also responding to the pandemic.

Regarding emergencies, UNICEF provided humanitarian assistance to address COVID-19, Venezuelan migration and wildfires. Internally, UNICEF sectoral teams received training to improve emergency planning, execution and monitoring. This also improved coordination with interagency teams and government counterparts. A second version of the Humanitarian Performance Monitoring exercise was carried out, which included not only activities related to the migrant/refugee and humanitarian response but also to development programming. This humanitarian development nexus monitoring approach will allow UNICEF to gain valuable insights into how to adjust, improve and/or design humanitarian, development and nexus programming.

UNICEF Bolivia's communication strategy helped improve the scope and impact of programmatic and humanitarian activities, showing strong growth and institutional positioning. Consequently, the Plurinational Assembly and private sector publicly acknowledged UNICEF's work results.

Traditional media helped UNICEF achieve institutional visibility in 2021, but social media showed more impactful results, especially among adolescents and young people. UNICEF had more than 220,000 followers on its Facebook page and almost half a million visits to its webpage in 2021. TikTok influencers' videos to promote the COVID-19 vaccine had millions of views. UNICEF reached 221,060 children through Business for Results (B4R) private sector partnership initiatives such as 'Connected Te@chers', the 'Time to Act' Telethon, the 'Global Compact Roundtable for Children' and the 'Vaccines Bring You Closer' campaign. UNICEF will continue this approach in 2022 while enhancing innovative strategies to fight misinformation in social media, especially messaging that prevents people from receiving COVID-19 vaccinations.

Finally, UNICEF Bolivia is committed to become a more eco-efficient office by seeking 'green certification'. UNICEF made efforts to pursue this goal and will continue to do so in 2022. Once achieved, the office will encourage other United Nations agencies and public and private sector entities to join the effort.