

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 health, education and social protection programmes. Nevertheless, the country faces an accelerated increase in inequality, which has been intensified by the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Again in 2021, the double blow of the central government's fiscal insolvency and the country's economic recovery 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 26% of the total population of 5.1 million habitants: 30% are aged 0–5 years, 30% are aged 6–12 and the remaining 40% are aged 13–17. During the last 20 years the proportion of children and adolescents has been constantly declining, from 38.3% in 2000 to its current level. This demographic shift, and the consequential gradual rise in rates of dependence, is bringing greater challenges to education and care during childhood and old age.

According to the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) July 2021 National Household Survey (ENAHO), the incidence of monetary poverty at the national level decreased to 23% from its previous 2020 high of 26.2%. Although an overall positive result, it is important to note that all the poverty reduction was concentrated in urban areas, as rural monetary poverty stayed stagnant at 26.3%. The percentage of children and adolescents living in monetary poverty rose from 32% in 2020 to 34.8% in 2021, of which 10.7% are living in extreme poverty.

As of December 2021, health authorities and the National Emergency Commission confirmed that COVID-19 cases were still significantly high – with a fifth wave of the pandemic being a reality due to the arrival of the Omicron variant. The country began immunization of the population aged over 12 years old in 2021 and paediatric immunizations (5–11 years old) were scheduled to begin in January 2022. By the end of 2021, the MoH reported that 92% of adults have received a first vaccination dose, 84% have had two doses and 10% have also been administered with a third booster shot. 7,605 persons had died from COVID-19 complications, of whom 25 were children and adolescents.

UNICEF-supported surveys (2018) indicate that 7.5% of children aged 0-5 and 33% of children and adolescents aged 5-19 are overweight and obese, confirming the need to prioritize physical and nutritional health among children and adolescents. Concerning basic immunization of children, DTP3 coverage was 95% in 2020.

For young people (15–24 years old), an unemployment rate of 38.1% was recorded in the third quarter of 2021 compared to a rate of 11.5% for those aged 25 and over. The unemployment gap between men and women has decreased, although it is still notable (12.2% vs. 19%). In addition, a significant proportion of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 are currently not in education, employment or training (NEET), representing close to 23% of this population group.

Education in Costa Rica has a budget close to 8% of GDP, making it one of the countries that invests most in the region and globally. However, there are challenges to strengthening and expanding on the achievements already made. For instance, UNESCO's 2020 Comparative and Explanatory Regional Study revealed that Costa Rica continues to be above the regional average in all areas of learning evaluated in third and sixth graders from Latin America, but the data also highlight the lack of progress in learning achievement during the last seven years. For four decades, the coverage and quality of secondary education has experienced a systematic lag and educational exclusion that has been difficult to reduce, as evidence indicates that close to 42% of adolescents are not completing secondary education due to high dropout and repetition rates.

Data from the Ministry of Public Education (MEP) indicate that in 2021, of a school population of around 1.2 million, only about 60% had access to their educational digital platform while the rest had to follow their educational process through WhatsApp, offline and printed digital resources. Also, only 34% of students reported having the required equipment and full connectivity to participate in digital education processes, 29% have limited access to both and 37% reported not having access to either. Around 16,000 students left schools in 2021.

According to the 2017 Survey on Women, Children and Adolescents (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 ECD Index, as 93% of children aged 3–4 years from the wealthiest quintile showed an adequate level of development compared with only 69% in the poorest quintile.

During 2021, administrative data from PANI confirmed the growing number of child and adolescent victims of multiple forms of violence. According to the record of reports on situations that threaten or violate the rights of children, there were 84,496 reported incidents, the highest number in the last five years and a 25% increase from 2020.

Other situations that impacted children and adolescents during 2021 are (1) reduced health services due to institutional suspension of such services; (2) negative impacts on indigenous populations, ranging from needs for food and access to hygiene supplies to problems with availability and access to technology for education, as well as access to potable water supply; (3) continuing growing risks of deterioration of the mental health of adolescents and youth; (4) as the numbers of transit migrants surged in 2021 (an estimated of 140,000 irregular migrants crossed Costa Rica in 2021), there was a clear need to increase support in border and destination communities in the following key areas: health (fatigue, skin diseases and cuts, allergies and gastrointestinal problems, COVID-19, pregnant women); psychosocial support; child protection against all forms of violence; GBV prevention and response actions; and international protection to unaccompanied minors; and (5) increased needs for mitigation measures for climate change, which disproportionately affects children, adolescents and young people.

Major contributions and drivers of results

INCLUSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

Inclusive quality education

UNICEF supported application of MEP's educational exclusion strategy in 314 schools with the highest prevalence of exclusion by developing an operative framework that guides implementation of management, planning and financial actions to prevent exclusion through an Early Warning System, benefiting 191,626 children.

Born out of a global partnership with Microsoft, and as a central element of the UNICEF Costa Rica GenU/Reimagine Education strategy, the digital initiative Learning Passport (LP) or 'Aprendo Pura Vida' platform will be launched in coordination with MEP in early 2022. The online platform will equip students, parents and teachers across the country with tools to support learning at home and in school. The LP will be key to support urgent academic recovery processes resulting from school closures during the pandemic, benefiting all 1.2 million MEP students and faculty.

Orienta2 is another innovative digital education platform developed by MEP with UNICEF support within the GenU/Reimagine Education strategy, which will enable students to develop their vocational plans and connect them with vocational training and professional opportunities, with an estimated reach of 800,000 students.

Within the framework of the GIGA initiative, UNICEF supported MEP to successfully upload

georeferenced information on all country's schools to the Project Connect monitoring platform, permitting a better understanding of where connectivity gaps are and, in the future, allowing estimation of the financial needs to connect all schools to the Internet.

UNICEF supported MEP in developing a STEAM interactive manual with a gender perspective, which was implemented in 2021 in 80 prioritized schools. In 2022, MEP plans to upscale the initiative nationwide.

Based on broad evidence on the effects of school closures on children, UNICEF successfully advocated and supported the reopening of schools in early 2021 and the vaccination of teachers in coordination with PANI, UNESCO, UNFPA and the RCO. By October 2021, 93.4% of teacher and MoE personnel had been immunized.

Early childhood development

UNICEF supported the strengthening of the National Child Care and Development Network (REDCUDI) from an emerging to an established childcare system. REDCUDI now has quality standards and a M&E framework for quality childcare services benefiting at least 61,690 children. UNICEF also helped devise a georeferenced data system to identify and monitor the location, quality assessment and coverage of over 1,200 childcare centres nationwide and developed a certification mechanism to level the quality of services among all childcare alternatives.

UNICEF drove strategic skill-building and professionalization of frontline workers through a training module for meeting quality childcare service standards and implemented a social and behaviour change strategy to promote positive parenting nationwide, reaching at least one million people.

In an effort to strengthen two of the country's main child-centred social protection programmes (Avancemos y Crecemos), UNICEF allied with the National Institute for Social Care and the University of Costa Rica to analyse their results and provide evidence-based recommendations for amplifying coverage and effectiveness of both of these conditional monetary transfers, which currently benefits 391,412 children. The study also demonstrated the potentially dire socioeconomic impacts on poor and extremely poor families of any reduction in funding of the programmes.

CHILD PROTECTION

UNICEF addressed violence prevention by promoting knowledge, perception and behavioural change in three areas: (1) violent parenting patterns in indigenous communities; (2) positive masculinities in cross-border communities; and (3) elimination of xenophobia for local leaders and members of the prioritized Child Protection Local Systems (SSLP). As a result, around 60 awareness-raising and training workshops were organized in schools in 25 cross-border communities to 150 heads of indigenous families, 120 community leaders and local SSLP officials, 600 migrant women and 475 students.

In coordination with the Office of Restorative Justice of the Judicial System, UNICEF supported implementation of the Judicial Mentoring Model to address the growing number of adolescents in conflict with law who fail to comply with the alternative measures ordered by judges. During 2021 the programme began with implementation of an online course for 100 selected mentors, who are being trained to support adolescents to develop life skills and life projects.

UNICEF supported PANI in implementation of alternative child protection models to prevent family separation and reintegrate children and adolescents to family environments through the development of the family-centred care model (MAF) and the family reintegration and independent living model (HALCOM). UNICEF supported development of PANI's 'Guide for the Implementation of Family-Centred Care Programmes', and based on these guidelines, supported identification of 50 indigenous

homes for family care in the indigenous territory of Talamanca. The HALCOM model was thoroughly systematized and an institutional directive and costing estimate were prepared for PANI, which led to its approval and funding for 2022. As part of this process, UNICEF trained eight NGOs to transform their residential internment services into family-centred care services.

Another key milestone was the formulation and approval of the National Action Plan Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (2022-2025) by the National Committee Against Sexual Exploitation (CONACOES) with robust UNICEF support.

SOCIAL INCLUSION, PUBLIC ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

Monitoring and evaluation

As the National Child and Adolescents Public Policy 2011–2021 (NCAPP) has concluded, UNICEF is supporting the National Children and Adolescents Council in development of the new policy, which will be effective for the next 10 years. To inform the new policy, UNICEF supported assessment of the State of the Rights of Children and Adolescents, which has the double purpose of providing the baseline data for the new NCAPP and informing UNICEF Costa Rica's Situation Analysis of its new Country Programme 2023–2027.

Also in preparation of the 2023–2027 UNICEF Country Programme, UNICEF allied with the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy (MIDEPLAN) and the University of Costa Rica to evaluate its 2018–2022 cooperation cycle as it will inform the design and implementation of the new Country Programme. UNICEF also commissioned a Gender Programmatic Review that will be key to strengthening gender-transformative results in the next programme cycle.

Knowledge generation and management

With technical guidance from the University of Costa Rica and UNICEF, 2021 was the first year that PANI was able to independently estimate and publish the 2020 Report on Public Expenditure on Children and Adolescents, which has proven to be an invaluable child rights advocacy reference during fiscal policy negotiations to ensure sufficient and required public investment for children.

UNICEF and MIDEPLAN presented the Wellbeing Index for Children and Adolescents (IBINA 2020), which measures and reflects the degree of access to services, material possessions, monetary income and educational levels of children and adolescents at the municipal level, classifying municipalities into three levels of attainment: high, medium and low. Of special relevance is that the IBINA is calculated using administrative data, making much less expensive its continuous update.

UNICEF and WHO/PAHO supported the Ministry of Health on the implementation of the Nutritional Landscape Analysis Tool, to assess the country's nutritional status and food consumption practices of children and adolescents; results will be key to complement and strengthen the Ministries of Education and Health nutrition policies and programmes.

In 2021, the second year of its newly established INSPIRA volunteering programme, UNICEF successfully launched two different projects. Within the Child Friendly Cities Initiative, 65 volunteers were engaged in 22 municipalities to support development of municipal diagnostic reports and child rights local policies as requirements to start their certification as Child Friendly Cities. The second project involved development of a training model for volunteers as mentors to contribute to assessment and improvement of reading and writing skills of children lagging behind in primary school. As of December 2021, 23 trained volunteers have mentored 54 children from vulnerable communities.

Communication and advocacy

UNICEF has increased its voice and presence as a leader on children's rights in social media and press. Human and child rights information was shared through different communication channels. The

following outcomes stand out: (1) more than six nationwide campaigns to promote return to classes, digital literacy, COVID-19 prevention and vaccination and protection from violence, engaging 8 million people through 4 social media channels; (2) more than 2,414 messages posted on social media reaching 20 million people nationwide, with 10,000 more followers compared to 2020; (3) press coverage included more than 600 clippings in national and international outlets, resulting in a 34% increase. A milestone was the publication of an international news article about schools reopening in Latin America by the world's Spanish leading daily news *El País*; (4) more than 100,000 visits to the website, of which 95% were new users, resulting in more than 1,000 visits monthly; (5) participation by UNICEF, together with UN agencies, in issuing close to 30 press releases nationally, with publication of close to 50 articles in more than 20 outlets; (6) for UNICEF 75th anniversary, a conversation with young climate activists was organized and an advocacy article and press release about historic contributions made by UNICEF to Costa Rica were issued; and (7) celebration of World Children's Day, which reached more than 526,000 people, included a takeover starring two children with disabilities practicing adapted surf with a national champion; videoclips to REIMAGINE the world after COVID-19; seven landmark buildings turned blue including the Presidential House; and the president signed the critical law 'Prevention of child and adolescent harassment through electronic means' during a public act with UNICEF participation.

Adolescent participation and empowerment

UNICEF developed and implemented its Generation Unlimited strategy, in coordination with the Vice Ministry of Youth and PANI, based on supporting empowerment and participation of adolescents and young people to regrade the issues that most affect their present and future, guaranteeing their participation in decision-making. The following results can be highlighted: (1) creation of the 'Bicentennial Generation' adolescent group, in coordination with Office of Vice-President (and GenU Champion), consisting of 22 adolescent and young leaders who received training in digital literacy, climate change, SDG, gender and identities and raised their voices regarding the Costa Rica they want; (2) international and national advocacy towards establishment of the Centre for Innovation and Creative Economy in the Liberty Park Foundation (PLL), as a model to strengthen soft and technical skills for employability of adolescents and young people focusing on innovations and green economy (an agreement between PLL and the government for kick-off funding was signed in December 2021); (3) first national consultation with 120 adolescents and young people to inform the National Telecommunications Development Plan; (4) development of digital literacy and ICT skills of 280 adolescents and young people from vulnerable communities; (5) direct support to 14 adolescents and young people during their participation and incidence in PreCOP26 and COP26, including development and dissemination of a communication campaign based on their climate action prerogatives; (6) 703 U-Reporters completed eight surveys and the results have been used by UNICEF and its allies in communication, decision-making, programme formulation and advocacy processes; and (7) UNICEF co-led with UNFPA a revamp of the UN Youth Working Group in the reporting year.

Emergency response and humanitarian action

Within the 'Protecting Migrant and Refugee Children in Mexico and Central America' regional programme, funded by the US Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, in 2021 UNICEF and its partners supported the following humanitarian assistance interventions and strategies.

As part of national efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among migrant and vulnerable families, supplies for family hygiene have been made available for migrants in vulnerable conditions. Under this premise, UNICEF procured 2,919 hygiene kits (each kit providing a six-month supply of supplies for children and adults), and coordinated with MEP for distribution to 15 prioritized education centres in host communities to ensure health and continuity of education, reaching 8,757 persons.

In close coordination with MEP, UNICEF supported mental health and academic recovery activities through 'Listening Classrooms' in 148 primary schools in highly vulnerable communities with migrant populations, benefiting approximately 2,859 students. The programme included activation of the 'Here I Am' telephone support hotline, which has already provided professional personal counselling services

to 504 students, 81% of which were girls. UNICEF also supported access to education for migrant children and adolescents by procuring and distributing 450 early childhood kits, 450 school kits, 2,962 art kits and 97 computers among highly vulnerable students from migrant and host communities.

According to MEP's 'Saber' digital information platform established with UNICEF support, of the 66,115 enrolled migrant students, 21,438 are not currently registered with their respective legal identification documents, severely affecting the ministry's capacity to trace and formally recognize their ongoing academic achievements and provide them with support services through social programmes. To respond to this, UNICEF supported development of a special module within the 'Saber' platform to allow administrative registration of migrants in the educational system based on their biometric records.

In coordination with MEP, the DGME, PANI and the NGO Jesuit Service for Migrants, an interinstitutional model was developed and implemented to support regularization of migrant students from public education centres. As of December 2021, professional legal guidance and advice had been provided to 12,256 migrant families – of which 2,440 children and adolescent students are now fully regularized and more than 5,763 are waiting for the regularization of their status by the DGME, after duly presenting their formal requests.

In collaboration with the Vice-ministry of Peace, DGME, PANI, Youth Action Foundation and participating community development associations, UNICEF supported the opening and running of 15 Safe Spaces throughout the country, for children and adolescent migrants and nationals in prioritized destination communities. These spaces provide support services, referral and information for the prevention of violence, learning and education, psychosocial support and legal aid for migrant and refugee children. Close to 2,000 children and adolescents have attended Safe Spaces. During this period, progress was also made in organization and institutional strengthening of community associations, which will continue to support the Safe Spaces with their own human and financial resources, making this a more sustainable community-based child protection initiative.

UNICEF partnered with the local government of Upala and the NGO CENDEROS to support prevention of GBV and migratory regularization of highly vulnerable migrant women. This partnership has allowed identification, psychosocial support and referral of GBV cases to specialized services, reaching 80 women and adolescent girls. A capacity-building programme started for women and girls over 12 years, covering the areas of positive masculinities, reporting and prevention of violence, employment skills, reproductive health and life projects, with participation of 729 women. Specialized legal aid and financial subsidies have also been provided to 175 highly vulnerable migrant women from Upala to support their migratory regularization process, 75 of whom have been formally regularized with approximately 50 waiting for DGME to finish processing their requests.

UNICEF is supporting prevention of xenophobia and fighting against stigma and discrimination, and promotion of social inclusion of migrant children and adolescents through development of social and behaviour change strategies in five host communities that represent distinct rural, border, urban and indigenous migrant contexts. Qualitative and quantitative research and consultation processes have been implemented to determine the knowledge, attitudes and practices of children, adolescents and community leaders regarding their social relations and realities with, or in their condition as migrants.

UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA and the RCO successfully developed a joint programme centred on strengthening the financing architecture of the SDGs with a specific focus on improving public spending in the education sector. The proposal was awarded a US\$ 1 million grant from the SDG Fund. UNICEF is the leading agency and the main results for 2021 consisted of (1) development of a gender and social inclusion budgeting methodology for MoE; (2) formulation of an updated results-based management and budgeting framework for the public education system; and (3) identification of four innovative SDG finance mechanisms to be developed and negotiated in 2022.

The COVID-19 pandemic and an ongoing humanitarian emergency, as a result of the increased mixed migratory flows, reinforced UNICEF's commitment to working within the UN framework. UNICEF participated in development of two interagency contingency plans, one centred in mixed migration flows and the other under the scenario of a tropical storm or hurricane occurrence. The government and the UN System have established a working group to jointly provide humanitarian assistance.

In alliance with PAHO/WHO, Ministry of Health and the Costa Rican Social Security Fund, UNICEF advocated for and supported the acquisition of vaccines through the COVAX mechanisms and the COVID-19 prevention and response, including the uptake of vaccines. In 2021, 648.150 vaccines arrived in the country through COVAX. By February 2022, additional 1.3 million vaccines are expected to be delivered.

UNICEF has also centred its humanitarian assistance on strengthening of multisectoral alliances in close partnerships with the local protection systems. In coordination with the Binational Permanent Commission for the Assistance and Protection of Migrants in a Condition of Vulnerability, an agile and interinstitutional mechanism was established to respond locally to rapidly changing humanitarian needs on the ground. As part of these efforts, UNICEF also signed an agreement with the Costa Rican Red Cross to provide humanitarian assistance services to highly vulnerable migrant children, adolescents and their families.

The University of Costa Rica has been a valuable ally on development and implementation of an innovative methodology to measure public spending for children and adolescents; breakthrough research on two of the most important child-centred social protection programmes; and support for evaluation of the UNICEF 2018–2022 Country Programme.

As a strategy to expand development and implementation of local child policies and programmes, UNICEF intensified its intersectoral strategic alliance with IFAM, PANI, local governments and local development associations, leading to reinforcement of the Child Friendly Cities initiative and co-creation and administration of 15 Child Safe Spaces. As of January 2022, Costa Rica has 33 certified child-friendly municipalities.

UNICEF led the UN Operations Management Team and co-led the UNCT Youth Working Group together with the UNFPA in 2021. The OMT key results were (1) LTA signed with an audit company for the UN Harmonized Approach Cash Transfer; and (2) supported COVID-19 vaccination of 839 staff members, dependents and consultants. The Youth Working Group highlight was advancement of the Youth Score Card in 8 out of 27 indicators (11 maintained progress level).

Lessons Learned and Innovations

Digitalization and the safe use of new technologies were paramount for UNICEF in 2021, supporting partners on delivery of programmes and services for children and adolescents through digital platforms, ensuring more robust continuity of services and digital inclusion. While it was an urgency

for the Education sector, the office realized that digitalization of social services was essential to keep them functioning during COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

The National Child Care and Development Network, comprising more than 1,200 ECD centres, now has a digital Information Management System that compiles data from 78% of the country's ECD centres, including 9% of children from 0 to 12 years old in poverty or extreme poverty.

The Learning Passport or Aprendo Pura Vida platform will be available for all 1.2 million students in early 2022 as well as the platform Orienta2, enabling students to develop their vocational plans and connect them with vocational trainings and professional opportunities. The availability of internet connectivity of 4,381 schools (of which 4,097 are connected to the internet) was mapped out and uploaded to the global GIGA platform to monitor and promote good internet connection for all schools. In addition, 97 computers were distributed to students from vulnerable communities. The MEP also started using digital anthropometric data, registering 20,495 undocumented migrant children and adolescents in 2021 (out of 66,115 migrant students enrolled in the public education system).

More than 2,440 migrant students were officially documented through a partnership with MEP, PANI, the National Foreign and Migration Directorate and UNICEF. Approximately 5,700 are on a waiting list to be documented in 2022. Moreover, 15 Safe Spaces were opened in migrant host communities from 11 municipalities, offering education recovery support, psychosocial and referral services and recreational activities to over 2,000 children and adolescents.

In partnership with the Parque La Libertad Foundation, 39 adolescents with disabilities and 15 indigenous adolescents were trained in digital alphabetization to access public education and other digital learning opportunities. And, for the first time, 116 children and adolescents were consulted to inform the development of the National Policy for Telecommunications 2021–2027 under the leadership of the Ministry of Science, Innovation, Technology and Telecommunications, which became a partner of UNICEF in the reporting year, supporting the country's efforts to promote safe internet access for all children and adolescents. The President of the Republic signed the Law 10020 for the Prevention of Children and Adolescent Digital Bullying and Grooming and Penal Code Reform.

A set of youth camps related to gender violence and digital security for young women between 12 and 22 years old was undertaken, benefiting 200 girls. The nationwide Youth Group of Generación Bicentenario, supported by Vice Presidency and UNICEF, launched a campaign to raise awareness of Digital Divide, and the importance of universal access to high-speed connectivity for all children, adolescents and young people. A training of trainers for 60 young people on topics related to digital inclusion, entrepreneurship, employability will be undertaken in 2022.

With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, the exacerbation of the migrant crisis in the region with many children and adolescents on the move, and the increased number of natural disasters highly affecting Central America, UNICEF Costa Rica was challenged to embrace both the regular development programme as well as various emergency responses. Programme flexibility and adaptability continued to be a cornerstone in the reporting year, ensuring that UNICEF fulfils its obligations to children and adolescents. The initial theory of change and programme strategies were adjusted to respond to the new challenges and new intervention models were developed and tested.

The Wellbeing Index for Children and Adolescents (IBINA 2020), launched in the reporting year, is considered an innovation as it provides disaggregated, local and low-cost information based on administrative data.

UNICEF Costa Rica expanded its procurement and supplies function with purchase of US\$1 million in programme supplies, an increase of 36% from 2020, supporting children, women and families highly

affected by hurricanes and the COVID-19 pandemic. To address the need to be more efficient and faster with procurement of supplies and services to better respond to the emerging challenges, UNICEF Costa Rica carried out a market survey in 2021, identifying and screening 440 services providers to accelerate the contracting process and the delivery of supplies for children and adolescents. Other UN agencies and the RCO are already using the database created by UNICEF.

As part of the vision of ensuring financial sustainability of UNICEF Costa Rica, private fundraising partnerships (PFP) operations were transferred from the regional office to Costa Rica Country Office in 2021, leading to the establishment of a PFP unit that oversees the individual giving fundraising strategy implemented through multiple channels such as telemarketing, digital platforms and face-to-face. The unit is also responsible for corporate engagement partnerships which will be another fundraising focus in 2022.

In future, UNICEF Costa Rica should advocate for and strengthen (1) the expansion of quality and inclusive education from early childhood to secondary education, with universal access to the internet and new technologies; (2) the expansion of social protection policies to eradicate child poverty and protect the most vulnerable, directly benefiting the 34 out of 100 girls and boys living under the poverty line; (3) opportunities for adolescents and young people to complete their formal education and develop skills and competencies for employability; (4) actions to mitigate the impact of climate change on children and adolescents to whom the impacts of the environment currently represent threats to the decades of progress achieved in the ability to survive, grow and prosper; (5) inter-institutional actions for prevention and response to all types of violence. Violence against children and adolescents has been a constant in the country in recent years and often is related to structural and cultural factors associated with patterns of upbringing and social norms of coexistence; (6) child nutrition policies and programmes to further promote healthier nutritional behaviour and food practices and prevent overweight and obesity; (7) strongly invest in local fundraising activities to attract private and individual donors.