

## Guatemala

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### Executive summary

The multiple social and political crises in 2017 resulted in extreme institutional instability (frequent changes of ministers and high-level government officials), social unrest (different demonstrations against the Government and against parliament), and a structural governance crisis (harsh conflicts among the three branches of Government, clash between the Government and the Commissioner of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala). This in turn resulted in frequent changes in policy design, blockage to legal reforms, slow execution of public budgets and, ultimately, slow progress or stagnation in the provision of basic social services for children. This instability had a significant impact on the implementation of the UNICEF country programme as well.

A critical incident that shocked the country was the tragic death of 41 girls under protection at the state-run residential centre, Hogar Seguro (Safe Home) due to negligence and mismanagement. This, together with fatal riots in other juvenile justice centres, highlights serious weaknesses in the design and management of the child protection system. This tragedy created social concern about indifference and inaction of the state regarding child rights violations.

### Results

In this context, the main progress by UNICEF Guatemala in 2017 included:

- Reform of the child protection system: UNICEF Guatemala co-led the response to the Hogar Seguro incident. In addition to aiding victims and their families, UNICEF intensified its political advocacy and provided technical support for the structural reform of the child protection system (its centrepiece being the Integrated Child Protection Law, still in Congress), aimed particularly at developing alternatives to the institutionalization of children (5,000 remain in public or private institutions). While the reform is in an initial phase, this year represents a drastic change of orientation in this regard.
- Positioning of early childhood development (ECD) on the political agenda: A concerted and structured strategy was followed – launch of the *Lancet* series on ECD, systematic and continued political dialogue through different instances and platforms with key actors, and strategic technical support – which resulted in the establishment of an inter-institutional Commission for Early Childhood, a major political milestone for Guatemala.
- Development of the National Plan to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy (PLANEA) 2018–2022: Together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Plan aims at reducing teen pregnancy from 21 per cent to 16 per cent by 2022.
- Migrant children: Strengthening assistance to unaccompanied migrant children at

Guatemalan Consulates in Mexico and the United States, and providing assistance to deported unaccompanied migrant children and families.

- Strengthening social media engagement: Increasing the number of U-Reporters by 470 per cent to 10,022, and collecting adolescent and youth perceptions on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) priority areas, reflected by the Guatemalan Government in its Voluntary National Review at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the SDGs.
- Emergency responses to Zika, the earthquake in the north of the country, and to flooding in the north-east.

### **Shortfalls**

- The promotion of exclusive breastfeeding with midwives was significantly slowed due to difficulties in re-negotiating with new health authorities; therefore, significantly fewer midwives were trained in 2017.
- Due to a chronic vaccine shortage, vaccination coverage remained low (only 61 per cent of children for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DPT) 3 and 64 per cent for measles in September), partially offset by an intensified vaccination campaign.
- Challenges remained in identifying suitable institutions to develop an Observatory on Violence Against Children – due to the availability of multidisciplinary expertise, sustainability and institutional credibility. Negotiations with the new Human Rights Ombudsperson have started, and the Observatory is expected to be launched in 2018.
- Primary education enrolment rates continued to fall; while part of the decrease in the reported rate may be due to statistical problems, it may also be associated with growing poverty (now 59 per cent nationally, and 79 per cent among indigenous populations), coupled with a lack of social protection.

### **Partnerships**

UNICEF Guatemala amplified work with private sector partners, contacting more than 30 companies and launching two customer-based fundraising partnerships, one with BAC Credomatic and a second with Hiperferreterías EPA. UNICEF Guatemala also furthered its partnership with the private-sector social responsibility consortium, the Centre for Action on Corporate Social Responsibility (Centro para la Acción de la Responsabilidad Social, or CENTRARSE), developing action plans to promote child rights, especially on early childhood, violence, education and child labour, which will be expanded to additional companies in 2018. UNICEF also concluded a National Baseline Study on Child Rights and Business, and in 2018 will seek collaboration to develop a National Action Plan for Human Rights and Business to raise the visibility of child rights.

A fundraising consultant was hired in 2017 to follow up on these efforts, with the goal of mobilizing up to US\$19.2 million.

## **Humanitarian assistance**

During 2017, Guatemala experienced several emergencies/crises having a direct impact on children.

The tragedy at Hogar Seguro led to the deaths of 41 girls and directly affected another 559

children in the state-run protection centre. UNICEF Guatemala immediately provided emergency support and coordination, which evolved into medium- and long-term interventions to address the causes as well as the consequences of this tragedy, aiming at reforming the integrated child protection system and law to prevent any repetition of such a tragedy.

The Government did not declare an emergency when facing the crisis, although it did request the establishment of a crisis response cluster led by the Presidential Commission on Human Rights, with support by UNICEF. The crisis was thus a 'non-emergency crisis' (a grey zone), which limited UNICEF's direct response (e.g., full-fledged access to emergency funding, access to longer-term surge human resources, and the level of executing authority). Globally, UNICEF may wish to strengthen its corporate response system for this type of 'grey zone' emergency.

Concretely, UNICEF Guatemala delivered immediate supply assistance and provided psychosocial assistance for the affected children. It also ensured the availability of basic medications and professional services for the 160 children with disabilities who were in Hogar Seguro.

UNICEF supported state institutions to follow up on children returned to their families amid the confusion immediately after the incident, verifying the well-being of these children and supporting family reintegration. Today, 94 per cent of the survivors have been tracked, despite the extremely complex and diverse profile of each child and family.

The response to this crisis was not limited to the children in Hogar Seguro, as UNICEF expanded its advocacy for more than 5,000 children living in state- or private-run shelters throughout the country, the majority of whom have living parent(s) or close relatives, and one third of whom are in state protection due to poverty. The crisis also led to the reactivation of social demand for improved child protection systems, and UNICEF Guatemala partnered with more than 40 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to revise and carry out intensive political advocacy for approval of the Integrated Child Protection Law.

Similarly, UNICEF's Zika response also evolved into longer-term, more development-oriented actions, with greater emphasis on care and support for Zika-affected children (and other children with disabilities) and families. Some 55 health and NGO workers received a Zika communication for development (C4D) diploma course through Landivar University, and they later implemented an action plan in 12 priority municipalities and at the national level. More than 60 Zika-affected families were identified and contacted, and 30 took part and received psychosocial support, Zika information, and local referrals for diagnostic and clinical or non-clinical assistance, including early child stimulation.

In 2017, UNICEF Guatemala also responded to natural emergencies, including the following:

- The earthquake in Chiapas, Mexico, caused damage in Guatemala's western region in San Marcos Province, where UNICEF repaired community water systems, guaranteeing access to safe water for nearly 16,000 people. UNICEF also sent five early childhood kits and 20 psychosocial assistance kits, and deployed psychologists who set up child-friendly spaces in 10 communities.
- In response to the flood emergency in Guatemala's northern region, UNICEF Guatemala supported 65 families with hygiene kits, and also provided psychosocial attention, in coordination with the Ministry of Health. Some 60 early childhood kits and five psychosocial attention kits were also distributed to shelters and affected communities.

- As of December, four communities in the northern and north-eastern region were evicted, affecting more than 440 families. The principle causes of the eviction were related to the unauthorized settlement of protected natural reserves and privately owned land. The region is also known for drug trade, further complicating the definition of the real causes of the evictions. Although UNICEF and other United Nations agencies are ready to distribute basic supplies, actual distribution is pending due to ongoing negotiations with government officials.

Though not considered an emergency, UNICEF Guatemala continued to support the identification and treatment of acute malnutrition cases. As of November, 11,755 children with acute malnutrition were identified (1,663 cases fewer than 2016), and UNICEF support saved the lives of 11,594 children.

UNICEF, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported the adaptation of the Index for Risk Management (INFORM) process and methodology, and generated a risk index for all 340 municipalities. This platform was adopted by the Executive Secretariat of the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction.

UNICEF also continued to lead the nutrition cluster and the regional webinars of the Central American and Mexico Integrated Resilience Group on Nutrition, allowing the Country Office to share experiences and information with neighbouring countries.

## Equity in practice

It must be noted that the country programme for Guatemala is focused on addressing the key bottlenecks that hamper the rights and limit the opportunities of deprived children and adolescents. Two examples are included to illustrate this point.

**1) Addressing key bottlenecks to reduce stunting:** Guatemala suffers one of the highest stunting rates for children under 5 years old in the world. UNICEF Guatemala performed a bottleneck analysis to identify bottlenecks and relevant solutions aimed at preventing and reducing chronic malnutrition. Deficiencies in knowledge and practices on good nutrition were identified as a main bottleneck. The counselling on infant and young child feeding provided to women at health services was found to be inadequate, since only 19.2 per cent of the women interviewed remembered what the service providers had told them about infant feeding in the first six months; and 0.1 per cent and 26 per cent of mothers had adequate knowledge on breastfeeding and complementary feeding, respectively.

Based on these findings, it was decided to improve communication methods to better reach mothers by implementing an evidence-based C4D strategy aimed at making communication more horizontal and interactive. This involved engaging different actors and using participatory methodologies to achieve community involvement in finding doable solutions to prevent and reduce chronic malnutrition. The impact of this strategy has been evaluated recently, showing an increase of 13 per cent in adequate practice of breastfeeding and 33 per cent in complementary feeding.

To further enhance the sustainability and community ownership of this initiative, a monitoring system was recently created at the community level, with a pictorial instrument so the community is able to collect its own data on nutrition knowledge and practices, analyse it with the support of local institutions and prioritize what topics should be addressed. Results of this

monitoring system have proven to help communities create awareness on the lack of knowledge and adequate practices and have increased their interest in educational community activities. The system found additional unexpected results; for example, awareness of the community about the complexity of the malnutrition problem, and realization that undernourishment is not just a consequence of lack of food, but can have other associated causes. It also has created awareness that the community must work together.

**2) Increasing coverage and cultural pertinence of education for indigenous girls through empowerment of women's groups:** Indigenous girls and boys suffer from lower levels of school attendance and have limited opportunities for learning in their own language and cultural contexts. One of the main factors behind this is the social norm of discrimination against indigenous peoples and women.

In the context of the second phase of the United Nations Joint Programme 'Programa Maya', UNICEF Guatemala has supported the formation of women's groups to promote girls' education through school management committees in rural indigenous communities since 2014. Some 2,000 mostly illiterate indigenous women participated in women's groups, where they learned about multiple issues surrounding indigenous human rights and women's rights, as well as school management skills. After three years, the local women's groups allied in a Regional Women's Network, and initiated political advocacy – calling for an increased women's role in development councils (the government-funded local decision-making bodies on human development issues) at all levels. The group presented a draft legal reform demanding that the State establish a quota for female participation within these decision-making bodies.

Thus, the movement which began by supporting girls' education at the community level eventually expanded to fight for the right of female political participation for all women and girls in the country.

The empowerment of community women had a direct impact on children's education. A knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) study of 160 participating communities showed the important impact of women's engagement on education. Some 70 per cent of parents now say that girls should conclude secondary or higher education, compared with only 43 per cent in the 2014 baseline. The study also confirmed a significant improvement in girls' attendance at school, which increased from 79 per cent to 86 per cent. The results show the cause-effect correlation between greater women's participation and girls' education, which can be potentially explored further at the national level to improve girls' education.

### Strategic Plan 2018–2021

UNICEF Guatemala believes that the programmatic approach of the Country Office very much aligns with the results framework as well as the 'features' of UNICEF's global Strategic Plan 2018–2021, as reflected in the current Guatemala Country Programme and reinforced by the strategic prioritization resulting from the 2017 mid-term reflection.

UNICEF Guatemala carried out its 2017 mid-term reflection exercise earlier this year. One of the main conclusions was that while the original Country Programme Document and results framework continues to broadly respond to the main needs of children, the current approach is excessively broad and is not sufficiently conducive for inter-sectoral or inter-institutional collaboration. In this context, the Country Office decided to identify three 'themes' that, while fitting within the current country programme document, should help to better focus and prioritize UNICEF's work. Furthermore, these three themes serve as the Office's own 'cause framework'

– i.e., areas on which to focus in both programmatic efforts, and in mass communication, C4D, resource mobilization, advocacy and research efforts in the coming years.

The themes were selected based on several strategic criteria: a) addressing key priorities for children; b) producing measurable results; c) they should be catalytic and should significantly enhance the chances of achieving other results; d) they should be intrinsically inter-sectoral and/or inter-institutional; and e) they should be based on UNICEF's undisputed leadership within the United Nations on these issues.

With this in mind, the three key themes selected are:

1) Integrated ECD, including the five domains identified in the recent *Lancet* series on ECD, which require engagement from all UNICEF programme teams. UNICEF Guatemala sees this theme as a critical factor in ending the inter-generational transmission of poverty and inequity, and the theme is also conducive to inter-sectoral integration and directly relates to all five Goal Areas of the global Strategic Plan.

2) Prevention of adolescent pregnancy and early union, which results from both the failure of social services and social protection systems and is, in turn, the cause of many negative consequences. This theme is directly related to areas 1,2,3 and 5 of the global Strategic Plan.

3) De-institutionalization of children, which, while mostly focusing on protection, also incorporates aspects such as effective de-institutionalization of children, and public policy and advocacy to change social attitudes. This theme involves the concerted action of at least seven institutions from the three branches of Guatemala's Government, as well as close collaboration with civil society. The present systematic institutionalization of children needing protection results from the failure of the protection system and has dire consequences for institutionalized children. While this theme focuses particularly on Strategic Plan Goal Area 3, to be effective the de-institutionalization of children needs to occur in an environment of 'integrated protection' that is, one where children enjoy opportunities in health, nutrition, education and social protection.

From a political standpoint, UNICEF Guatemala expects these themes to demonstrate to the Government, civil society and the international community the added value of UNICEF in the broader context of the SDGs. Guatemala has one of the highest levels of inequity and exclusion in the world, thus a focus on equity is the backbone of the Country Programme, particularly through its focus on the rights of indigenous children. Similarly, gender equality is a key concern of the CPD, as illustrated in UNICEF Guatemala's focus on adolescent pregnancy.

## Emerging areas of importance

**Climate change and children.** The United Nations Joint Programme (UNICEF/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)), on strengthening community resilience in the Dry Corridor, shifted its focus on introducing household microenterprise to improve socio-economic sustainability, nutrition and food security, despite extreme vulnerability to climate change. In 2017, UNICEF Guatemala specifically focused on community-based water purification, benefiting 55,740 community members. Improved cook stoves were piloted, yielding significant reductions in the need for firewood and in time spent fetching it, mostly benefiting women.

With the support of the UNICEF Regional Office, Guatemala accessed funding from UNICEF United Kingdom, which will allow the Country Office to support a Climate Landscape Analysis for Children as an important evidence-based advocacy tool. This funding will also support the

Office in engaging adolescents to participate in decision-making processes at the decentralized level to address climate change in local government.

**Refugee and migrant children.** In 2017, 3,574 unaccompanied Guatemalan migrant children were deported back to Guatemala, substantially fewer than in 2016 (7,066), with 94 per cent of these children deported from Mexico. The number of Guatemalan unaccompanied children detained in the United States declined from 18,913 (2016) to 14,827 (2017). In addition, another 24,657 children migrating with one or both parents were also detained in the United States. UNICEF Guatemala continued collaborating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and offered psychosocial counselling to some 2,700 migrants at two prioritized Guatemalan Consulates in 2017. The Office also extended assistance to some 600 families deported back to Guatemala, including psychosocial support, partnering with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the First Lady's Secretariat for Social Work. UNICEF Guatemala led the United Nations Migration Coordination Group and provided support to state institutions to operationalize the new Migration Code, which came into effect in May 2017.

**Accelerated integrated early childhood development (ECD).** For the Country Office, ECD is becoming a central axis of work. Important progress was achieved to make visible and have the State commit to holistic, integrated attention to early childhood. UNICEF, together with partners, launched the *Lancet's* series on early childhood, which generated the shared reflection that efforts to reduce chronic malnutrition can greatly benefited from holistic early childhood care – including early learning, responsive care giving and safety and security aspects – are guaranteed. Following successful negotiations and political advocacy, a multidisciplinary, inter-institutional Specialized Commission for Early Childhood to coordinate and promote multi-sectoral, state-led ECD interventions was established. The Commission is led by the Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SESAN) and the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), and reports to the Social Cabinet led by the Vice President. Other key state actors participating include the Ministry of Health (MSPAS), the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES), the Secretariat for Social Welfare and the First Lady's Secretariat.

**The second decade of life.** In November 2017, all exceptions permitting children under 18 to marry were eliminated, an important landmark for adolescents and particularly for girls. Early union, however, remains unregulated, leaving girls unprotected in case of separation from their partner. Considering the important cause-effect linkage between early union and teen pregnancy, UNICEF, PAHO and UNFPA supported the development of the National Plan to Prevent Adolescent Pregnancy (PLANEA), which aims to reduce teen pregnancy from 21 per cent to 16 per cent by 2022. In December, PLANEA was approved in the Social Cabinet chaired by the Vice President.

The past year, 2017, saw a significant expansion of U-Report, which now has 10,022 U-Reporters (a 470 per cent increase from 2016). Adolescents and young people were able to express their views through more than 30 polls in 2017, and U-Report contributed to the Guatemalan National Voluntary Review report presented at the SDG High-Level Political Forum in July, the only country to include the opinions of young people in its Review.

Overweight and obesity have become an emerging issue in Guatemala, affecting women from age 10 to 49 years old: some 32 per cent of women in this age group are overweight, 20 per cent are obese and 43 per cent have hypertension. UNICEF collaborated with MSPAS to design a National Strategic Plan to address this issue.

**Support 'movements' to accelerate results for children.** UNICEF raised the visibility of ECD,

both through programmatic interventions and also through private sector engagement. The subregional fundraising alliance launched with BAC Credomatic to benefit ECD interventions developed into a national-level movement for early childhood. Though still at an early stage, there is a great potential to intensify these efforts in 2018, including concrete action to activate the four pillars of the Cause Framework, which has great relevance for Guatemala and for articulating programmatic actions with and among communication, advocacy, fundraising and social corporate responsibility.

## Summary notes and acronyms

C4D	communication for development
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CENTRARSE	Centre for Action on Corporate Social Responsibility (Centro para la Acción de la Responsabilidad Social)
CLTS	community-led total sanitation
CODISRA	Presidential Commission Against Discrimination and Racism Against Indigenous Peoples (Comisión Presidencial contra la Discriminación y el Racismo)
COPREDEH	Presidential Commission of Human Rights (Comisión Presidencial Coordinadora de la Política del Ejecutivo en materia de Derechos Humanos)
CSO	civil society organization
ECD	early childhood development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICT	information and communication technology
INFORM	Index for Risk Management
KAP	knowledge, attitudes and practices
MIDES	Ministry of Social Development (Ministerio de Desarrollo Social)
MINEDUC	Ministry of Education (Ministerio de Educación)
MSPAS	Ministry of Health (Ministerio de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social)
NGO	non-governmental organization
ODF	open defecation free
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PLANEA	National Plan to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy (Plan Nacional de Prevención de Embarazos en Adolescentes y Jóvenes)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SESAN	Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (Secretaría de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional)
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WFP	World Food Programme

## Capacity development

About 800 stakeholders benefited from a C4D course (diploma) to support their work to reduce chronic malnutrition, including 20-hour training on breastfeeding, C4D interventions in relation to adequate nutrition and hygiene practices, management of community-based early childhood centres, and community monitoring systems. The latter topic was aimed at community leaders, to help them monitor progress and challenges in ‘1,000 day’ interventions in their own

communities, while at the same time prompting them to have deeper dialogues with community members.

In collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development and the United States Centres for Disease Control, UNICEF Guatemala supported training for 35 staff from SESAN on the Health and Nutrition Surveillance System, which allows annual updating of key health and nutrition indicators, including the nutritional status of schoolchildren, without waiting for the Demographic and Health Survey carried out every five years.

Some 20 communities (out of 64 participating communities) in the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) initiative have been certified as open defecation free, benefiting approximately 1,700 people through improved community hygiene. The CLTS model was adjusted to local contexts to identify key messages that resonate with community members. With the increased prevalence of household latrines (albeit not always used, or inadequately used), communities rejected talking about 'open defecation', but fully accepted and actively participated in combatting 'faecal contamination'.

UNICEF Guatemala, OCHA and UNDP helped develop an Index for Risk Management (INFORM) platform, which was implemented at the subnational level, and the risk index was produced for all 340 municipalities, and institutionalized within the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction. Some 50 municipalities were identified at the highest risk, and the data are very useful for project planning (including for disaster risk management) and public policy, and for C4D interventions regarding prevention, mitigation and resilience.

### Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy

The Spanish version of the *Lancet's* Series on Early Childhood was launched. This led to the establishment of an inter-institutional Special Commission for Early Childhood, which will develop an integrated ECD strategy combined with the National Strategy to Prevent Chronic Malnutrition.

The Country Office published 'Look at me, I am indigenous and I am also Guatemalan', a comprehensive qualitative and quantitative investigation on the situation of indigenous children in Guatemala. Additional research and publications on this matter will follow in coming years.

As a response to the tragic events of Hogar Seguro, in which 41 girls under the protection of the state died, two reports were prepared by the Country Office and shared with key stakeholders, civil society and the media. These reports (three months and eight months after the tragedy, respectively), gathered quantitative and qualitative data on the situation of the children affected by the tragedy as well as the progress on the response and reforms made by the Government, to promote an evidence-based policy dialogue on the matter.

In preparation for Guatemala's Voluntary National Report to the United Nations SDG High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July, U-Report surveys were carried out to understand adolescents' perceptions of the SDGs. The experience was highlighted at an HLPF side event. U-Reporters also participated in global polls for the *State of World's Children 2017*.

In June, the Country Office submitted its Confidential Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, with a detailed description of progress, remaining challenges, and recommendations to fulfil child rights in Guatemala. Committee members were particularly interested in specific issues, such as the Hogar Seguro tragedy, adolescents in conflict with the law, and chronic

malnutrition.

The Country Office contributed to the health sector assessment to develop a results-based budget, leading to a 21 per cent increase in 2018 proposed health-sector allotments, aimed at improving primary health-care services.

## Partnerships

In partnership with 40 NGOs, UNICEF Guatemala intensified support and advocacy on the draft National Integrated Child Protection Law, and a task force was established to build consensus to work with political parties for Congressional support. The law is currently in its second reading in Congress.

A memorandum of understanding was signed with the private-sector social responsibility consortium (CENTRARSE) grouping more than 100 leading companies from multiple industries to develop action plans to promote child rights, with special attention to early childhood, violence, education and child labour. Together with the Central American Institute for Fiscal Studies, UNICEF concluded a National Baseline Study on Child Rights and Business and plans in 2018 to seek collaboration to develop a National Action Plan for Human Rights and Business with the Presidential Human Rights Commission, to ensure the visibility of child rights issues.

UNICEF, PAHO and the Canadian Embassy presented the documentary 'Milk' on challenges to exclusive breastfeeding. Following the presentation, the Government, civil society, academic sector, academics and the private sector formed working groups to follow up on breastfeeding in emergencies, communication strategies, research, legal frameworks and breastfeeding in the workplace.

UNICEF Guatemala continues to co-lead the United Nations Network for Scaling Up Nutrition and, at the Network's Global Meeting, Guatemala shared its experience in preventing chronic malnutrition, including surveillance systems, adolescent participation, food consumption studies, the C4D strategy, and community monitoring systems.

UNICEF Guatemala participated in four United Nations Joint Programmes: 1) Programa Maya with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNDP; 2) Peace-building Fund with UNDP; UNFPA; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); UNHCHR; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; and UN Women; 3) SDG-Fund Nutrition project with the World Health Organization, World Food Programme (WFP) and FAO; and 4) a resilience-building project with FAO.

Additionally, UNICEF continues its collaboration with UNFPA and PAHO to promote adolescent health and maternal and neonatal health, for which the agencies recruited two inter-agency consultants.

## External communication and public advocacy

Through declarations, interviews, press releases and the timely visit of UNICEF's Regional Director, UNICEF Guatemala has played a key communication role around the Hogar Seguro tragedy: correcting erroneous views that children under state protection are criminals, providing credible information to stakeholders, generating and maintaining social pressure to ensure an adequate response to the victims, and reforms to address the underlying causes of the tragedy.

The Spanish-language *Lancet* series on ECD was presented to make ECD more visible, and to

oblige state institutions to foster inter-institutional collaboration to respond to the multifaceted needs of young children.

Together with PAHO and the Canadian Government, UNICEF Guatemala presented a documentary entitled 'Milk', highlighting key challenges to breastfeeding and generating a movement that included numerous public and private institutions and individuals.

The Country Office published 'Mirame: Soy indigena y yo tambien soy Guatemala', a comprehensive qualitative and quantitative investigation on the situation of indigenous children in Guatemala. This report had a substantial repercussion in the media and has raised awareness on the issue.

In 2017, UNICEF Guatemala significantly increased its social media outreach to nearly 185,000, with 118,000 Facebook fans, more than 31,000 Twitter followers, nearly 2,000 YouTube subscribers, and 900 Instagram followers. The number of U-Reporters leaped by 470 per cent to more than 10,000.

The number of visitors to the Country Office's website decreased in 2017 (from 20,048 to 4,067 unique visitors, and from 11,300 to 2,023 returning visitors) due to technical issues; the Office expects to increase visitors in 2018, using the new Content Management System, under the framework of digital transformation.

The Office advocacy and communication strategy is in line with UNICEF's global strategy's four global Cause Framework themes, with annual plans prepared to integrate advocacy, mass communication, fundraising, corporate social responsibility, digital communication and communication for development.

### **South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation**

In 2017, UNICEF Guatemala supported exchange visits for education officials among the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Guatemala and Peru (three countries with significant indigenous populations) to share knowledge and experiences on mother tongue instruction, ECD practices, alternative secondary models, lessons learned from school management committees and women's participation. This led to preliminary agreements for South-South cooperation among these countries. A memorandum of understanding will be signed with the Ministry of Education of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Peru in 2018.

The South-South strategies include internships, discussion forums through a multi-country platform specifically designed for this purpose, exchange of research and materials, virtual meetings, conferences and technical assistance. Public signature of the memorandum of understanding has been agreed and planned to take place in Guatemala in early 2018. This South-South cooperation will address challenges with regard to the most vulnerable children, and each country will share knowledge and learn from the others, allowing networking among education officials to advance universal and equitable access to culturally pertinent education. Lessons learned from previous experiences supported by UNICEF Guatemala constitute an important asset. The agreement emphasizes UNICEF's commitment to ensure children's rights, always and everywhere.

### **Identification and promotion of innovation**

UNICEF Guatemala continued to use the U-Report platform for social monitoring by adolescents and youth. As of 4 December, there were 10,022 U-Reporters, a 470 per cent

increase from 2016, and more than 80 per cent of U-Reporters were under 25 years old. In 2017, U-Report Guatemala sent out 30 opinion polls. The Country Office hired a full-time dedicated consultant to support this initiative.

U-Report results were fully incorporated into the National Voluntary Review 2017 presented at the United Nations HLPF on the SDGs, making Guatemala the only country that included the opinions of adolescents and youth in its Review. Some 4,873 U-Reporters shared their perceptions through the seven SDG-related polls, including on issues related to poverty, hunger, health, gender equality and innovation, among others. For example, 94 per cent of U-Reporters responded that people live in poverty in their communities. UNICEF Guatemala also participated in three global poll initiatives, including one for the *State of World's Children 2017*.

The community-led total sanitation (CLTS) project, which started in the second semester of 2016, led to 20 communities (31 per cent of all those activated) being certified as open defecation free (ODF) in 2017, thus guaranteeing enhanced hygiene for 1,685 persons. Following extensive consultation with community residents, the CLTS methodology was adjusted to the specific context of the communities, where most families have household latrines, although a majority of these are not adequately maintained and used. The adjusted methodology focused on managing faecal contamination, rather than open defecation only, and was widely accepted and strengthened the internalization of issues as well as concrete community actions to eliminate such contamination.

### Support to integration and cross-sectoral linkages

ECD interventions require multi-disciplinary interventions, and the launch of the Spanish version of the *Lancet's* series on early childhood generated greater internal and external understanding of the need for cross-sectoral collaboration. The current National Strategy to Prevent Chronic Malnutrition addresses issues related to the 'first 1,000 days'; however, it places limited emphasis on responsive care giving, early learning, and security and safety – all identified as equally important for integrated ECD.

UNICEF Guatemala successfully advocated for creating within the Social Cabinet an inter-institutional Special Commission for Early Childhood, led by SESAN and MINEDUC. Other ministries, including the Health, Social Development, Social Welfare and Finance, also participate. When the Commission becomes operational in early 2018, UNICEF Guatemala will continue providing cross-sectoral support to ensure a better start in life for Guatemalan children.

Social protection is increasing articulated with interventions by other sectors, although this linkage is not generally understood among partners, including civil society. Thus, UNICEF Guatemala made significant efforts to clarify this concept with partners. Given the weakness of social protection in Guatemala, it is critical to prevent children from requiring special protection in the first place, and UNICEF's social protection and child protection sections worked together in drafting the pending Law for Integrated Child Protection.

The Country Office's focus on care and support for Zika-affected children evolved to include early childhood and disabilities, triggering increased cross-sectoral coordination among UNICEF Guatemala's health, social protection and special protection sections. The Office will continue supporting traditional partners working with children with disabilities, and will intensify negotiation with MIDES to create special social protection measures for children with disabilities.

## Service delivery

UNICEF Guatemala continues supporting the expansion of prevention of mother-to-child transmission coverage to rural indigenous communities by supporting rapid test screening services at health posts, mobilizing midwives to capture pregnant women. The model is now implemented in three provinces (Alta Verapaz, Quiché and Sololá) with a high percentage of indigenous people. Through this model, 2,714 women who were pregnant and 178 men were screened who, without this opportunity, would not have had such access in their communities. UNICEF continues advocating with the Ministry of Health to institutionalise this model.

UNICEF's Zika response emphasized care and support for affected children and families. Together with partners, the Country Office developed a capacity-building process and nine methodological guides for professional health and protection personnel, and for teachers of young children. These guides were complemented with 13 modules of C4D tools to create awareness on Zika risks, and on care and support for Zika-affected children. A database of 57 children with microcephaly was created to provide follow-up, and 470 health and protection personnel, teachers and parents were trained. This support was implemented in 12 municipalities, according to prioritization by the Ministry of Health.

UNICEF Guatemala and UNDP provided technical support to MIDES to re-certify the registry of beneficiaries of the conditional cash transfer programme 'Bono Seguro', since, to enhance transparency and budget execution, Congress mandated a new census of all the cash transfer beneficiaries prior to distributing any transfers. Support included an external supplier digitalizing 30,000 census sheets, in compliance with quality standards established by MIDES. As of December, budget execution reached 42 per cent (despite the complete suspension of cash transfers in the first semester during the re-certification exercise). Overall, and with UNICEF and UNDP support, the programme reached nearly 770,000 children age 0–15 years old in 45,000 households.

## Human rights-based approach to cooperation

UNICEF Guatemala submitted its Confidential Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child pre-sessional working group, including a detailed description of progress and challenges in the situation of child rights in the country, together with priority recommendations for the Government. The Guatemala Government delegation will participate in the Committee's regular session in January 2018. The Country Office also contributed to the United Nations Country Team Confidential Report to the Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and to the United Nations Country Team report on Guatemala's Universal Periodic Review, ensuring significant visibility of child and adolescent rights issues, particularly the situation of girls. The CEDAW Concluding Observations on Guatemala in November refer extensively to rights violations faced by girls and adolescents, particularly the most vulnerable, and UNICEF and the United Nations Country Team will closely follow up.

UNICEF Guatemala played a lead role in coordination and response to the Hogar Seguro tragedy, beginning immediately after the incident. The victims were the children who were under state protection due to severe violation of their rights in their families and communities. Given public misperceptions that children in state custody are criminals, UNICEF Guatemala reiterated a human rights point of view, and succeeded in mobilizing public demand for justice for the victims and for preventing any repetition of such incidents.

UNICEF Guatemala led the United Nations Group on Migration, and promoted convergent

actions among United Nations agencies. UNICEF also provided technical assistance to the Government on care standards for migrant children, and promoted the application of the new Migration Code, which is aligned with international human rights standards. With support by UNICEF, some 1,700 child migrants had access to counselling at Guatemalan Consulates in Mexico and the United States, supported by UNICEF, and more than 600 received specialized psychosocial attention.

UNICEF Guatemala launched the study entitled 'Look at me, I am indigenous and I am also Guatemalan', reflecting the situation of indigenous children, highlighting the continued stark disparities and exclusion facing indigenous people in Guatemala, and stressing the urgent need to address underlying and structural causes. UNICEF Guatemala will work with the Presidential Commission Against Discrimination and Racism Against Indigenous Peoples (CODISRA) to conduct provincial-level launches of the report in 2018.

## Gender equality

The women's groups formed under the framework of United Nations Joint Programme 'Programa Maya' intensified its political advocacy and presented the draft law to achieve gender parity in the Development Councils at all levels, which is currently under consideration in Congress. The movement, which was started to support the indigenous girls' education with school management committees, has expanded to include advocacy for women's participation at community level and beyond, demanding the political participation for all women and girls.

A KAP study was conducted in 160 communities where the women's group actively was engaged in the school management committees, and it confirmed the measurable impact of women's participation on the education of girls. Some 70 per cent of parents now say that girls should conclude secondary or higher education, compared with only 43 per cent in the 2014 baseline. The study also confirmed a significant improvement in girls' attendance to school, which increased from 79 per cent to 86 per cent. The results show the cause-effect correlation between greater women's participation and girls' education, which can be potentially explored further at the national level to improve girls' education. UNICEF invested a total US\$77,000 to support the women's group in 2017.

In 2017, Guatemala passed a law eliminating all the exceptions allowing children to marry. Though an important step, early union remains unregulated, which often prevents protection of girls in case of separation. Considering the interlinkage between teen pregnancy and early union, UNICEF, UNFPA and PAHO intensified inter-agency collaboration to support development of the National Plan to Prevent Adolescent Pregnancy (PLANEA) 2018–2022, and carried out joint political advocacy for its approval. PLANEA aims to reduce teen-pregnancy from 21 per cent to 16 per cent over the next five years through: a) improved access to education for all adolescents; b) comprehensive sexuality education in schools and communities; c) gender-responsive adolescent health, with emphasis on sexual and reproductive health; and d) adolescent participation. The Social Cabinet unanimously approved PLANEA in December, and this will directly benefit 1.9 million adolescent girls and their male counterparts. UNICEF Guatemala invested US\$30,000 to support this activity in 2017.

## Environmental sustainability

Following up the publication on climate change and children in 2012, UNICEF Guatemala prepared a study entitled 'The Life in Danger: Impact of Climate Change on Guatemala Children' in 2017, to be concluded in 2018. The study explores the vulnerability of Guatemala – the ninth most vulnerable to climate change in the world – and possible scenarios and

recommendations for mitigating its impact, particularly on the most vulnerable.

In 2017, knowledge on the climate change and natural disaster emergency preparedness among adolescents and youth was measured using the U-Report platform. The results show that only 55 per cent know what to do in case of flooding, and there was confusion on where to seek support in case of emergency.

The UNICEF/FAO Joint Programme for the Dry Corridor, in south-eastern Guatemala, ensured access to safe drinking water, treated by community groups trained to maintain chlorine treatment systems for community water tanks, serving 55,740 persons in 105 communities. In addition, improved cook stoves were introduced as a pilot in these communities, to reduce firewood consumption, respiratory infections, and to reduce the time spent fetching firewood, which is mainly done by women in the communities. UNICEF Guatemala is currently exploring the possibility of scaling up the availability of cook stoves by seeking possible micro-enterprises to produce this technology at local level.

As a part of greening UNICEF initiative, the Country Office changed its light bulbs from neon to fluorescent, and is currently testing the use of LED bulbs to further decrease the energy usage. All paper waste is recycled, and the Office is in the process of signing an inter-agency agreement with a recycling plant for all kinds of waste.

UNICEF Guatemala received two-year funding support from the United Kingdom National Committee to work on climate change, and implementation will start in 2018. Key expected results include: a) national-level capacity development to periodically produce a Climate Landscape Analysis for Children; b) enhanced engagement of adolescents in municipal resilience planning; and c) model interventions at community level through environmentally safe income-generation activities.

## Effective leadership

The Guatemala Country Office faced intensive internal and external management challenges this year, including: a generalized political crisis that affected the functioning of public institutions; the Hogar Seguro tragedy that presented a major challenge to the State as well as UNICEF; and the Country Office remaining without an official Representative until late in the year, among other challenges. Despite these limitations, the Office organized itself to respond to these particular challenges while preserving the normal functioning of processes and activities.

The Office Dashboard and Performance Scorecard were reviewed regularly at country management team and programme meetings, and special attention was paid to comply with harmonized approach to cash transfers requirements, reflecting lessons learned during the first semester when the Office had unsatisfactory ratings.

An important management strategy has been to revamp and strengthen participatory management platforms: supporting the staff association, reactivating the joint consultative committee and expanding the regular staff meetings to make them more inclusive and informative.

Another important initiative has been the development of the response plan to the Global Staff Survey findings – particularly geared to improve staff's work and life balance as well as optimizing the distribution of workloads to make them more efficient and equitable (to be implemented in 2018).

The Office of Internal Audit and Investigations conducted an audit of the United Nations SDG Joint Programme in which UNICEF, PAHO, WFP and FAO all participate, and the official report is still pending.

### Financial resources management

UNICEF Guatemala reviewed its Dashboard and Performance Scorecard bi-weekly to ensure sound financial management and comply with the financial procedures, managing its resources adequately. As of December, there were zero outstanding direct cash transfers exceeding six months, and the Office ensured maximum utilisation of all expiring grants (total amount lost: US\$262). In 2017, the Office had US\$5.7 million in Other Resources (representing 71 per cent of its 2017 ceiling of US\$8 million) and implemented 86 per cent (US\$4.9 million). Given the gap in Other Resources income, the Office contracted a corporate alliance consultant to seek private sector alliances and contributions, and two key fundraising initiatives were launched in 2017.

All bank reconciliations were completed on time. At one moment in 2017, the Office had six bank accounts in three different banks. The Citibank/Promérica bank accounts were closed in November, following instructions from the Division of Financial and Administrative Management, and two new accounts were opened in September (with Banco de América Central) for a regional fundraising initiative. The Office accounts in CITI NY Branch are now used for disbursements, payroll and all financial activities.

Net savings of US\$91,000 were realized through the Common Premises initiative, even taking into account the increased costs of having additional personnel on the premises. The Office did not take additional efficiency and cost-saving measures during 2017, as the main goal was to maintain the level of savings from one year to another, which was achieved.

Office of Internal Audit and Investigations conducted an audit of the United Nations SDG Joint Programme in which UNICEF Guatemala, PAHO, WFP and FAO all participate; however, the official Audit Report is still pending final review.

The total amounts received and utilized stated below:

Received	Implemented	Utilization rate
Other Resources Emergency	US\$648,573	US\$618,006 95%
Other Resources	US\$5,740,810	US\$4,941,611 86%
Regular Resources	US\$1,569,961	US\$1,569,109 100%

### Fundraising and donor relations

In 2017, UNICEF Guatemala secured new funding of US\$5,123,053 (Other Resources) and US\$648,573 (Other Resources Emergency). Total Other Resources funds raised during current country programme were US\$19,590,311, representing 49 per cent of required Other Resources. The Office utilized 86 per cent of available Other Resources funding in 2017, equal to 71 per cent of the total ceiling (funded + unfunded).

The Office negotiated an extension of a junior professional officer with the Embassy of Japan, under a 50/50 funding arrangement up to June 2018.

The Office maintains close engagement with key in-country bilateral donors: Japan, Norway, Spain and Sweden. The Office also maintained close communication with key UNICEF National

Committees, including those in Japan, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States and hosted field visits from the Japan and Spain National Committees in 2017. In addition, the Deputy Representative visited donors at the Japan and Spain National Committees while visiting the country/vicinity for other purposes.

The Office participated in three United Nations Joint Programmes, including Programa Maya, Resilience Building for the Dry Corridor, and the Guatemalan Peace Building Fund, and a total of US\$894,327 was received for these joint programmes in 2017.

The Office recruited a corporate engagement consultant in 2017, in order to intensify in-country private sector fundraising efforts and corporate social responsibility activities, and contacted 30 additional companies to explore possible alliances. Three contacts led to concrete partnerships: BAC Credomatic, Hiperferreterias EPA and Montblanc, though with the latter the Country Office only supported the launch of the Montblanc products with funding going to UNICEF globally to be distributed to other countries. Both BAC Credomatic and EPA initiated customer-based fundraising in Guatemala in 2017, and these partnerships and their results will be reviewed in early 2018.

### Evaluation and research

In October 2017, UNICEF Guatemala completed the 'Evaluation of Municipal Integrated Protection Systems – Support to the National Strategy for the Protection of the Human Rights of Children in Guatemala'. UNICEF developed the terms of reference, which were later discussed with the UNICEF Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Office and reviewed by the Centre for Educational and Social Studies in 2016. This evaluation was foreseen to be completed in 2016, but its finalization was delayed due to complications with the technical and financial proposals, which therefore had to be re-done. The evaluation's recommendations and response plan were shared and discussed with the implementing partners and with the donor, and the final recommendations have been included in the Office workplan for 2018. The Executive Summary of the evaluation was registered in UNICEF's global evaluation and research database.

For 2017, UNICEF Guatemala only planned the final evaluation of the United Nations Joint Programme 'Maya'. The Joint Programme was executed by UNICEF, together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNDP, and Guatemala was responsible for the component on inter-cultural/bilingual education. The evaluation was completed in December 2017, and the recommendations and response plan were shared and discussed with implementing partners and the donor and will be included in the Office workplan for 2018.

In addition, in 2017 the Evaluation Management Response Plan for the evaluation of the C4D strategy to reduce chronic malnutrition was completed.

A final assessment was also completed in 2017 of the United Nations Joint Programme 'Food Security and Nutrition in Priority Municipalities in San Marcos Province', supported by the global SDG Fund. The Executive Summary of the evaluation was registered in UNICEF's global evaluation and research database.

### Efficiency gains and cost savings

In 2017, UNICEF Guatemala experienced a 6 per cent increase in the combined cost of rent, security and maintenance. Nonetheless, thanks to the successful negotiation made with the

building's owner in previous years, the Office continues to enjoy a lower a rental cost below market prices: the rent in 2017 was US\$ 7.0/m<sup>2</sup> (\$8.50/m<sup>2</sup>), some US\$ 1.5 below the 2014 rate, yielding savings of US\$27,900 per year compared with 2014 rates.

UNICEF Guatemala continues to share office space with UN Women and UNODC, following the memorandum of understanding signed in 2013. Under this agreement, key services are shared, including electricity and other utilities, Internet connectivity, printing services and ICT support, among others. The total cost of shared services during 2017 was approximately US\$297,000, of which UNICEF pays 69 per cent, or US\$205,000. This translates into approximately US\$91,000 in savings, when taking account of the increased costs of having more personnel on the premises. The Office did not take other measures for efficiency gains and cost savings during 2017, and the main goal was to maintain the level of savings from one year to another, which was achieved.

Inter-agency long-term agreements are an important early result of implementing the United Nations Business Operations Strategy, yielding savings in staff time of approximately 15 person-hours for each agreement (not including time spent on preparing terms of reference and planning processes), for an estimated savings of 75 person-hours in 2017.

The 'Light Office' approach has reduced the information technology infrastructure required, reducing expenses for electricity, hardware, software, and information and communication technology (ICT) support, although since this constitutes cost avoidance, it is impractical to estimate the savings made.

## Supply management

In 2017, as in previous years, the UNICEF Guatemala relied almost entirely direct cash assistance to partners, allowing them to procure their own supply needs. Offshore procurement through UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen was mainly of items for nutrition and health projects.

Ensuring timely and efficient procurement requires close monitoring and follow-up by the Office with the Supply Division and regular and fluid communication with Copenhagen helps avoid delays and loss of funds.

The UNICEF internal financial and programme management system VISION shows that UNICEF Guatemala did not issue any programme supplies from local warehouses in 2017 and, as of December, has no programme supplies in warehouse, and no pre-positioned supplies for emergencies.

Supply and Logistics Key Figures	Guatemala
(1) Total value of procurement performed by the office, including on behalf of the other country offices	
Procurement for own office	\$776,366.57
Operational supplies	\$38,484.93

Services	\$737,881.64
International freight	\$1,511.02
<b>TOTAL procurement performed by the office</b>	<b>\$777,877.59</b>
<b>(2) Total value of supplies and services received (i.e., irrespective of procurement location)</b>	
Programmatic supplies including PS-funded	\$110,955.34
Channelled via Programme	\$110,955.34
Operational supplies	\$38,484.93
Services	\$737,881.64
International freight	\$1,511.02
<b>TOTAL supplies and services received</b>	<b>\$888,832.93</b>

### Security for staff and premises

The security context in Guatemala is assessed at security level 3 (moderate), which has been in effect since 2011. Common crime, mainly in urban areas, represents the major threat, and robberies, thefts and armed attacks are quite common, thus the Office continually reinforces with all staff the importance of preventive measures and compliance with safety/security regulations.

In terms of security procedures and standards, in 2017 staff on field trips adhered without exception to Security Clearance requirements, and the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) closely monitored staff in the field. UNICEF Guatemala is 100 per cent compliant with the United Nations Minimum Operating Security Standards, and UNICEF staff are not authorised to circulate on roadways outside of the capital city between 18:00-06:00 hours. For UNICEF, security and emergency communications are tested daily, with security-related messages shared through office-wide WhatsApp groups. The Office does not have emergency supplies stored, since it no longer has a functioning warehouse. In addition, UNDSS implemented an agency-based Warden System through a web-based messaging service.

Considerable time and resources are invested in on-going training programmes on topics such as security warning, risk detection, prevention and mitigation, and all three Office drivers attended defensive driving training in 2017. A simulation of the business continuity plan was not undertaken in 2017; however, several United Nations-wide tests of the emergency communications tree were successfully carried out. UNDSS was also very active in providing training and advice on security-related issues.

### Human resources

The current Representative came on board in August 2017, exactly one year after previous left the country, with the Deputy Representative acting as officer-in-charge in the interim. The recruitment of several posts was concluded in March: social protection specialist, operations assistant and programme assistant. At year-end, UNICEF Guatemala is in the process of recruiting four additional posts: monitoring and evaluation specialist, programme assistant,

finance assistant and protection officer (temporary assistance contract), and these positions are expected to be filled during the first quarter of 2018. Other professional and technical assistance was procured through consultants and individual and institutional contractors, totalling 47 contracts.

A learning and development plan was submitted to the UNICEF Regional Office for approval and allocation of funds, but no activities were completed, although all professional staff spent over five days each in learning activities. The Office reinforced staff capacity in important areas, such as harmonized approach to cash transfers, values and principles, safety and security, English, managing people for results, teambuilding and ethics. The results of the Global Staff Survey were discussed in the joint consultative committee, the country management team, and in an all-staff meeting.

The joint consultative committee designed a follow up plan, carried out an assessment of progress, and established a workplan based on the Global Staff Survey findings, which will be implemented throughout 2018. The staff association and management reinforced their commitment to periodically evaluate the work climate and staff morale. Efforts were made to keep staff motivated and aware of the importance of performance evaluation processes, and the Office achieved 100 per cent completion of 2016 personnel performance evaluations. An all-staff retreat was organized in March, including a full day of field visits to eight project sites in two provinces.

### Effective use of information and communication technology

During 2017, UNICEF Guatemala deployed all the new technology standardized by UNICEF's Information Technology Solutions and Services Division. VISION functioned as expected, and staff have access to corporate e-mail through Microsoft Exchange on smartphones. UNICEF Guatemala is part of the 'light office' initiative, and fully migrated its infrastructure to accommodate all requirements since 2016. 'Light office' has worked as expected in 2017, and staff can access internal data and systems from anywhere via internet on their assigned laptops. All laptops were migrated to the Yoga standard established in January 2017. ICT support continues to be outsourced, with ICT services cost-shared with UN Women and UNODC within the common premises initiative.

#### UNICEF Guatemala in Social Media 2016–2017

Channel 2016 2017 # +/- %

Unique web visitors 20,048 4,067 -15,981 -79.7%

Returning web visitors 11,300 2,023 -9,277 -82.0%

Facebook 110,861 117,957 7,096 6.4%

Twitter 28,870 31,074 2,204 7.6%

YouTube 1,106 1,842 736 66.5%

Pinterest 367 376 9 2.4%

Instagram 202 876 674 333.6%

Medium Since 30/03/17 --- 298 --- ---

U-Reporters (U-Report Guatemala) Since 01/09/16 2,139 10,022 7,883 469%

Facebook (U-Report Guatemala) Since 28/06/16 7,327 17,415 10,088 137.6%

Twitter (U-Report Guatemala) Since 01/03/16 --- 254 --- ---

The number of visitors to the UNICEF Guatemala website decreased significantly in 2017, due to the delay in updating web content and technical problems with the RedDot software. The

Office compensated with social media outreach and expects to increase the number of the web in 2018 with the new content management system system under the framework for digital transformation.

## Programme components from RAM

### ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

**OUTCOME 1** Increased capacity of CONJUVE to promote adolescent participation, in particular of disadvantaged children, to develop their skills and opportunities to participate in decision making processes.

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

The education sector remained stable in 2017 with the same authorities leading the Ministry, despite the political crisis that led the multiple changes of other ministers. This facilitated the collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), and cooperation with the Ministry followed the planned actions. Nonetheless, the deterioration of primary enrolment continues, as it went down to 77 per cent in 2017, compared with 84 per cent in 2014. The secondary enrolment remained practically stagnated, reaching 45 per cent in 2017, compared with 44 per cent in 2014.

Critical challenges facing the education sector in Guatemala include low transition rates to secondary education, especially for girls, and the need to strengthen the capacity of education teaching and administrative staff. In addition, successful pilot work with families of children in the most at-risk poor rural and indigenous communities provides evidence which will be used for national advocacy, planning and capacity strengthening to improve educational continuity and educational quality. Examples of these advances in 2017 include:

- MINEDUC conducted specific analyses using Education Management Information System (EMIS) data on access, continuity and completion rates, identifying areas where indigenous girls are most vulnerable to exclusion. Having to commute to distant – often urban -- schools is the one of the main triggers of low transition rates to secondary (43 per cent nationally in 2016, but only 9 per cent in some remote provinces). On a positive note, however, once given the opportunity to attend secondary schools, girls are more likely to complete their secondary education.
- UNICEF supported MINEDUC to design a pilot project to offer secondary alternatives for indigenous girls, organizing school networks covering 10–12 communities together, with one community hosting a common secondary centre. UNICEF Guatemala supported the MINEDUC in simplifying the national secondary curriculum and developing materials and teachers' guides for this model, which will also open opportunities to re-insert young mothers who gave up education following childbirth.
- UNICEF Guatemala also supported MINEDUC in updating and simplifying the process for academic certification for children from other countries, which will benefit returning migrant children.
- To strengthen MINEDUC's capacity for management and vertical coordination with local education authorities, UNICEF Guatemala supported training emphasizing monitoring of efficiency indicators and implementing interventions accordingly. The EMIS has been useful in monitoring students at risk of academic failure and early dropout. At the beginning of the school year, EMIS data provided inputs to provinces where enrolment had dropped in relation to 2016 as a basis for recuperation interventions.

- Given the critical role of community demand for education, UNICEF Guatemala supported a KAP survey in 160 communities where UNICEF supported women's groups (within the United Nations Joint Programme Maya), showing the important impact of women's engagement in education, including as leaders of school management committees (up from 28 per cent in 2014 to 55 per cent in 2017). In these communities, more children are now attending pre-school, up from an average of 37 per cent in 2013 to 42 per cent in 2017, and 70 per cent of parents now say that girls should conclude secondary or higher education, compared to only 43 per cent per cent in the 2014 baseline. The study also confirmed a significant improvement in girls' attendance to school, which increased from 79 per cent to 86 per cent. UNICEF shared these with Education Ministry representatives and UNICEF offices from the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Peru as part of its South-South cooperation, which will lead to establishing a regional network in 2018 (see also below).
- UNICEF and others supported MINEDUC efforts to address ECD by providing technical assistance to analyse the situation of children 0–6 years old, updating information on the legal framework, internal structure and organization, and financial and human resources for ECD, and leading to a proposal and two-year plan to reach children in remote indigenous communities. In December, a multi-disciplinary inter-institutional specialized commission on early childhood was formed in the Social Cabinet to promote holistic integrated attention to early childhood in Guatemala. MINEDUC, together with SESAN, will coordinate this Specialized Commission to promote National Strategy for the ECD.
- To encourage parental involvement in academic success, UNICEF again promoted the Reading and Writing Contest for students, in which 678,000 students in different grades participated in 2017, compared with 8,000 in 2012. UNICEF continued its support to make reading a national priority to improve quality education. Data show the increasing interest of families in the process of achieving their children's literacy and education.
- UNICEF promoted South-South cooperation between the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Guatemala and Peru to address these crucial issues: quality mother tongue instruction for indigenous children, community participation in decision making both in School Management Committees and education councils, ECD, learning networks, alternative secondary models and women empowerment. Initial agreements led to a memorandum of understanding sent to the Ministries of Education of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Peru and to UNICEF offices, covering for internships, materials, research and the development of a platform to hold virtual forums and discussions among staff and experts.

**OUTPUT 1** Improved capacity of the Ministry of Social Development and other government institutions to adopt and implement a national social protection plan with adequate budget, and to offer equitable social protection programmes for boys and girls, including adolescents.

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF, together with UNDP, provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) for the process of recertifying the beneficiary register. The aim was to reinforce transparency and facilitate budgetary execution of the conditional cash transfer programme *Bono Seguro*. Implementation of cash transfers was halted in the first semester by a Congressional Decree requiring full re-certification of the beneficiary registry prior to delivering any cash transfer programme by the Government, affecting more than 640,000 families depended on this programme. This support allowed MIDES to finally re-initiate the release of the *Bono Seguro* to 30,000 families in November.

UNICEF also engaged the new authorities in MIDES to take stewardship of the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index. This effort included gathering think tanks and academic institutions to accompany MIDES with technical and political support. The efforts led MIDES to be engaged in the initiative, and to mobilize assistance from Oxford Poverty and the Human Development Initiative, which UNICEF expects to accompany in 2018.

UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Finance to conduct a health sector budgetary assessment, applying the open budget methodology for a multi-annual exercise 2018–2022. This led the Ministry of Health, the Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food and the Municipal Development Institute to map out the financial resources required to provide basic health services with a medium-term perspective, compared with the customary practice of developing institutional budgets based on past expenditures. UNICEF Guatemala support was reflected in the proposed budget of approximately US\$190 million for MSPAS (a 20.5 per cent increase in nominal terms), an important increase in social spending. However, in November, the Congress rejected the national budget for 2018, which automatically implies that the actual budget for 2017 would be applied for 2018, with the risk of a slowdown in budgetary execution during the first trimester. This volatile situation reaffirms the importance of continued and intensified UNICEF advocacy and technical support to achieve a child-sensitive budget in 2018.

UNICEF successfully engaged the Secretariat for Planning to use the U-Report to ensure multi-stakeholder participation through an accountable and transparent review process in preparing for Guatemala's Voluntary National Review at the HLPF. This ensured that the perceptions of adolescents and youth were effectively reflected in the Government report. Guatemala also hosted a side-event at the HLPF in which Government presented the critical role of consultation with adolescents and youth to raise awareness on the SDGs, which enabled the Secretariat for Planning to capture the perceptions of Guatemalan society.

## **OUTPUT 2** New element

### **Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, Guatemala eliminated all exceptions allowing children under 18 years of age to marry. While this is an important step forward, early union remains unregulated, often leaving girls without legal protection in case of separation from their partners. Given the strong correlation between teen pregnancy and early union, addressing early union is critically important to promote inter-institutional, intersectoral collaboration to curb adolescent pregnancy which, at 21 per cent, makes Guatemala's the sixth highest rate in the region.

In 2017, UNICEF Guatemala, together with UNFPA and PAHO, continued inter-agency collaboration and helped to develop a revised policy framework to operationalize and monitor multisectoral state coordination of PLANEA 2018–2022. This plan specifies the roles of key line ministries, including the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Development, and the National Council of Youth, in preventing teenage pregnancy. While the current PLANEA 2012–2017 targeted adolescents of 15–19 years of age, given substantial number of girls under 14 giving birth (more than 1,800 in 2016), the new PLANEA 2018–2022 was revised to include adolescents aged 10–19. The main contents of PLANEA include: a) development of life skills, b) strengthening the delivery of adolescent health services, c) access to education and comprehensive sexuality education, and d) youth participation. PLANEA 2018–2022 was approved in the Social Development Cabinet in December, which was chaired by the Vice President of the Republic.

UNICEF Guatemala, together with UNFPA and PAHO, also supported MSPAS to implement Standards for Quality Health-Care Services for Adolescents in 22 health districts (municipality level) in five health regions (province level: Huehuetenango, San Marcos, Quetzaltenango, Ixil and Alta Verapaz) with a potential beneficiary population for adolescent-friendly health services of 275,500. This process required the training of 45 health professionals to conduct nine baseline studies, allowing the formulation of improvement and monitoring plans. Technical assistance was provided to develop a proposal for adolescent health monitoring indicators, which includes categories such as morbidity, mortality, adolescent pregnancy, nutrition status and cases of sexually transmitted infections (including HIV).

In 2017, UNICEF Guatemala made significant progress in expanding U-Report Guatemala, creating a committee consisting of five civil society organizations and two governmental institutions to promote the platform and to ensure that all polls are adolescent-friendly, resulting in an increased number of U-Reporters to 10,022 in 2017, some 470 per cent increase from 2016. U-Report Guatemala also participated in three global poll initiatives, including one for the *State of World's Children 2017*, allowing the opinion of Guatemalan adolescents and youth to be reflected in global-level discussions.

UNICEF Guatemala advocated for its local civil society partner, *Paz Joven*, to participate in local public decision-making spaces – e.g., Municipal Development Councils. *Paz Joven* trained 55 staff and officers from local authorities in 15 municipalities on annual budgeting and planning.

**OUTPUT 3** Increased knowledge and ability of girls and adolescents, particularly out-of-school indigenous girls in rural areas, to demand social services.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

The adolescent nutrition supplementation project aimed to improve the micro-nutrient status among adolescent girls, and was an intersectoral project led by UNICEF Guatemala's social inclusion and health/nutrition areas. In June 2017, UNICEF organized a workshop for 10 technical staff from implementing partners to help them to share their feedback and discuss how to improve materials and methodologies to strengthen their knowledge on nutrition. Following the workshop, participants implemented activities for 564 adolescents and youth at the municipal level.

Some 324 adolescent and youth nutrition promoters organized activities using peer-to-peer communication strategy to distribute micronutrient supplements (40 iron tablets and 40 acid folic tablets) at the community level. One of the implementing partners signed a strategic agreement with municipal authorities to ensure sustainability and local commitment before initiating distribution activities. As of November 2017, more than 12,000 women – including 8,704 adolescent girls aged 10–19 years old– in 44 municipalities had received micro-nutrient supplements. UNICEF will conduct a survey in 2018 to measure the direct impact of this initiative on micro-nutrient status among adolescent girls.

Intersectoral collaboration between UNICEF Guatemala's social inclusion and health/nutrition sections helped implement the Zika project, and was implemented in 12 municipalities over six months. Focusing on prevention at the community level, UNICEF and the implementing partner prepared a workshop manual, and 140 adolescents and youth were trained as volunteer promoters and implemented 336 replicas of the workshop, reaching 7,252 adolescents and youth. They also organized 22 health fairs, which were visited by more than 3,000 persons. U-

Report Guatemala assisted by measuring knowledge about Zika, through two polls, one in May and another in September, with the participation of 2,325 U-Reporters. Provinces involved in the project, such as Quetzaltenango, showed an increase in awareness from 79 per cent to 90 per cent, even though the national figure did not change significantly, remaining at 88 per cent.

Regarding HIV/AIDS, UNICEF supported the organization of adolescent-led activities, with adolescent volunteers implementing seven HIV/AIDS fairs which provided information about HIV/AIDS, especially prevention of HIV, to 750 adolescent participants in six municipalities from five provinces.

The main challenge continues to be effectively reaching out-of-school adolescent girls and, with this aim, UNICEF and implementing partners coordinated with key local entities – e.g., health centres, municipal Women’s Offices and Community Development Councils. UNICEF plans to intensify its efforts to reach out-of-school adolescent girls in coming years to involve them effectively. In this regard, it is expected that PLANEA will provide an opportunity to increase access to public services for the most disadvantaged girls.

**OUTPUT 4** Increased capacity of state institutions to monitor social investment in children, to produce and analyse reliable and disaggregated statistics on children and women, and to follow up on the recommendations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and CEDAW.

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF collaborated with the National Council for the Attention of Persons with Disabilities, the National Institute of Statistics, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and CBM, an international Christian development organization working for the rights of people with disabilities, to finalize and launch the National Disability Survey (ENDIS 2016) to estimate the national and regional prevalence of disabilities among adults and children, in order to address the need for current and reliable data. Key findings include:

- At national level, the prevalence of disability for all ages was 10.2 per cent. This result included all those reporting a significant functional limitation in any core domain, or those identified as having a significant clinical impairment (moderate or above).
- At national level, the prevalence estimate of disability among children was 5.3 per cent.
- The most common domains in which children were reported to have at least some difficulty were: anxiety/depression (40.6 per cent), controlling behaviour (27 per cent) and remembering (20.9 per cent). No differences by sex were reported in any domain.

In April, in collaboration with the Central American Institute for Fiscal Studies, UNICEF Guatemala concluded a proposal for a National Baseline Assessment of Children’s Rights and Business Principles to provide a first input for a National Action Plan, for Guatemala, in line with the Guiding Principles on Businesses and Human Rights. Also in April, UNICEF signed a letter of intent with the Presidential Human Rights Commission (COPREDEH) to strengthen child protection programmes in the business sector. For 2018, UNICEF is planning to develop an internal Child Rights Business Strategy and, together with COPREDEH, will develop a National Strategy for Children’s Rights and Business Principles, in order to begin work with at least one business sector, such as mining, agriculture or tourism.

Based on work in 2016, the Study on the Situation Analysis of Indigenous Children was

launched in December, entitled 'Look at me, I am indigenous and I am also Guatemalan'. CODISRA was one of the convening institutions for this presentation, and in 2018 the Commission and UNICEF will conduct a series of public presentations in various provinces. The study shows that the majority of unfulfilled rights and problems of indigenous children and adolescents are associated with the conditions of poverty in which families live, as well with their difficulty to access public services, indicating that future efforts should be oriented toward achieving a profound transformation of the Guatemalan State. A system must be established within the economic model to guide institutions to guarantee the common good, incorporating multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multilingual perspectives. In this transformation of the State, it will be essential to integrate the indigenous vision of development, which also implies a vision of environmental sustainability. The State will need to reinforce the quality and coverage of its public services, for which a fiscal pact to procure adequate resources will be essential.

**OUTCOME 2** By the end of 2019, girls and boys benefit from and access decentralized child protection mechanisms and programmes that prevent and protect them from violation of rights, primarily violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

Child protection in Guatemala continues to be an area of widespread challenges. A major crisis in the state-run residential protection centre, Hogar Seguro, highlighted both continuing institutional weaknesses as well as widespread negative public attitudes regarding children requiring protection. In addition, violence and abuse against children remains widespread. To confront these challenges, UNICEF Guatemala played an important role in coordinating response to the specific crises in 2017, as well as continuing advocacy to improve Guatemala's child protection systems at national and decentralized levels. UNICEF also continued to provide technical and psychosocial support related to child migrants (both unaccompanied children and those migrating with their families) and, while the numbers of children deported and requiring assistance declined in 2017, this remains a serious protection issue facing Guatemala.

The 8 March tragedy at Hogar Seguro— in which 41 girls died and 559 children were affected — was the culmination of long-standing institutional weaknesses and inaction, as well as the indifference of Guatemalan public to the situation of children with special protection needs. As of end-December, 33 adolescents from Hogar Seguro remain missing, and more than 245 children remain in public or private protection institutions. The tragedy revealed widespread stigma against these children, as efforts to identify locations for temporary residences for children without family resources were severely hampered by the resistance of neighbouring communities to hosting such children. The weakness of the child protection system was further revealed through a number of riots at juvenile detention centres which occurred following the Hogar Seguro tragedy. On multiple occasions, various human rights bodies, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, together with UNICEF and NGOs, had voiced strong concerns on the inhumane living conditions and absence of correctional programmes in Guatemalan juvenile detention centres. The riots exposed the fact that adolescents were housed together with adult convicts in these centres, and outdated, inaccurate registration of those detained.

In response to the tragedy, UNICEF coordinated and co-led the emergency response with state entities and civil society, immediately recommending to the President's Office a follow-up strategy (later converted into the state response plan). Supporting the Presidential Commission of the Human Rights, UNICEF co-led the crisis response group to monitor the response plan, and prioritized all related interventions. The response was, however, hampered because the

authorities of some direct partners, including the Secretariat for Social Welfare and Solicitor General's Office, were detained in relation to the incident, considerably slowing decision-making by the state institutions. UNICEF also provided technical support to locate and assist former child residents of Hogar Seguro, developed specialized programmes for temporary protection homes, supported the Secretariat of Social Welfare to reactivate its foster care programme, and provided psychosocial care to children, families and training for child protection professionals.

Inter-institutional coordination remains a key bottleneck, and rapid response centres to avoid institutionalizing children under state protection did not materialize because no agreement was reached between the two responsible entities, leaving an important gap for children requiring temporary shelter. An improved inter-institutional system to register children entering the protection system is also required. The Hogar Seguro tragedy also led UNICEF Guatemala and NGOs to review the draft Law on Integrated Child Protection with a view to strengthening its social protection component, and UNICEF accelerated advocacy for its approval by Congress (still pending).

Despite the challenging context, UNICEF made notable progress in its protection programme:

- UNICEF supported the capacity development of multiple courts dealing with cases of violence against children to improve their quality of care for child victims of violence, and for adolescents in conflict with the law. UNICEF supported legal aid and psychosocial counselling, and also provided technical support to the Supreme Court to develop regulations and operationalise manuals to provide services using appropriate care standards.
- UNICEF also continued to support the expansion and consolidation of municipal child protection systems, helping to increase coverage from 130 to 143 municipalities, constituting 38 per cent of all municipalities.

In 2017, a total of 3,574 unaccompanied migrant children were deported back to Guatemala (upto November), a significant decrease from 2016, 94 per cent of these children were detained in Mexico. The number of Guatemalan unaccompanied children detained in the United States in 2017 declined by about 4,000 from 14,827 in the previous fiscal year. Additionally, 24,657 children migrating with parents were also detained in the United States. UNICEF Guatemala continued its collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, offering psychosocial assistance to migrants at three prioritized Guatemalan Consulates in 2017. UNICEF also extended its assistance, including psychosocial support, to some 600 families deported back to Guatemala, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Secretary of the First Lady's Social Secretariat.

To strengthen the subregional coordination, UNICEF and the UNICEF offices in El Salvador and Honduras conducted a workshop to develop a common theory of change on both migration and violence against children, and will develop joint subregional programmes in the future.

UNICEF also contributed to emergency preparedness and response in 2017 implementing, for example, training for provincial officials on minimum child protection standards in emergency situations and, with the Ministry of Health, provided psychosocial care support to children and families affected by the earthquake in San Marcos and Huehuetenango provinces, as well as those affected by floods in Alta Verapaz province. UNICEF also supported response to children affected by the Zika epidemic.

**OUTPUT 1** Child protection mechanisms at different levels established with adequate resources, to articulate, coordinate and provide services to prevent and respond to child rights violation, including gender-based violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

In response to the Hogar Seguro tragedy, UNICEF Guatemala coordinated and co-led the response with state entities and civil society. In support of COPREDEH, UNICEF co-led the crisis response cluster to support the state response plan, which was developed following the response strategy recommended by UNICEF, and prioritized all related interventions. UNICEF also provided technical support to: a) verify and assist 249 former child residents of Hogar Seguro who returned to their families (the Solicitor General's Office traced 93 per cent to their homes, and 89 per cent of those traced received psychosocial assistance from the Secretariat for Social Welfare; b) develop specialized programmes for temporary protection homes to provide individualized care; c) together with National Adoption Council, support the Secretariat to reactivate its foster care programme (halted in recent years); and d) provide psychosocial care to more than 170 children, 40 families and training for 200 child protection professionals.

Nonetheless, inter-institutional coordination remains a key bottleneck, and lack of agreement between key counterparts prevented establishment of rapid response centres to avoid institutionalizing children under state protection, leaving an important gap for children requiring temporary shelter while the state searches for their family/extended family. An improved inter-institutional system to register children entering the protection system is also needed. The Hogar Seguro tragedy also led UNICEF and NGOs to review the draft law on integrated child protection with a view to strengthening its social protection component, and to accelerate advocacy for its approval by Congress (it is still under consideration).

Following the tragedy, the Solicitor General's Office implemented a pilot administrative model for child protection in seven provinces, prioritising non-judicial and non-institutional responses for child victims of violence, resulting in 68 per cent of cases being resolved administratively, 30 per cent through the judicial system, and only 2 per cent of cases leading to children being institutionalized. This shift is a major achievement for the country's protection system, showing that it is possible to solve cases without resorting to residential protection.

To guarantee adequate care for unaccompanied and accompanied migrant children deported from the United States, UNICEF advocated provision of psychosocial assistance in Guatemalan Consulates on Mexico's border with the United States. In 2017, support was provided to the Consulate in Tapachula, Mexico (assisting 1,589 children from January to August, with 366 psychosocial interventions), and to the Consulate in Phoenix, United States (assisting 1,084 children). UNICEF also partnered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Secretariat of the First Lady's Social Work to provide psychosocial assistance to 562 families (761 children) deported back to Guatemala.

UNICEF also continued to support the expansion and consolidation of municipal child protection systems, helping to increase coverage from 130 to 143 municipalities (38 per cent of all municipalities), and municipal governments invested more than \$1,142,857 to operate municipal child protection systems in 2017.

In response to the Zika outbreak, UNICEF developed community guidelines to increase the capacities of parents of children with disabilities for the Ministry of Health and community leaders.

**OUTPUT 2** Improved capacity of judicial system to detect, investigate and prosecute the crimes against children, especially the crimes against girls and adolescent girls.

**Analytical statement of progress**

Multiple courts deal with cases of violence against children, and UNICEF Guatemala supports the capacity development of all of these courts. For example, UNICEF supported 24 children's courts to improve their quality of care for child victims of violence, and for adolescents in conflict with the law, supporting legal aid and psychosocial counselling. UNICEF also provided technical support to the Supreme Court to develop regulations and operationalize manuals to provide services using appropriate care standards. Children's Courts have heard 12,940 child victim cases as of November, and courts for adolescents in conflict with criminal law have considered 3,955 cases.

UNICEF also provided technical support to assess the model for assisting victims of domestic violence at family courts in Guatemala City, which highlighted lack of psychosocial attention to women and children and limited use of mechanism to avoid their re-victimization. Family Courts in Guatemala City had heard 15,639 cases as of November, of which 34 per cent (5,387) were cases of domestic violence and violence against children. In response to the findings of the assessment the Judiciary approved a new Policy for Family Courts, and made modifications for more efficient management.

With support from UNICEF, the Attorney General's Office developed a litigation strategy for child abuse cases, and also a guideline for providing psychosocial assistance to child victims of crime. UNICEF also helped develop the protocols for assisting victims and witnesses with disabilities, as well as for the improved use of Gesell chambers (helping avoid the re-victimization of child victims by requiring them to testify multiple times). In addition, UNICEF supported the development of guidelines for the investigation of missing children, and supported the Prosecutor's Office for Crimes against Children of the Attorney General's Office to minimize delays in addressing child abuse cases and to improve coordination with the Police and other criminal prosecution institutions. The new Prosecutor's Office for Crimes against Children applied standards to prevent re-victimization to nearly 4,000 children's cases in Guatemala City alone in 2017, representing approximately 10 per cent of all cases of crimes against children. A key remaining challenge is to extend the application of this standard elsewhere in the country.

UNICEF supported the National Civil Police in developing four special administrative protocols related to detecting violence against children and to the detention of adolescents in conflict with criminal law, these procedures will be implemented nationally in 2018. The effectiveness of the National Police helpline was also jointly assessed, revealing that the hotlines are often not answered, and that calls are not disaggregated to distinguish crimes against children from those against adults. The assessment reconfirms the need for specialization and standardization of hotline services, which will be addressed in 2018.

UNICEF and National Civil Police Academy implemented a special diploma course on crimes against children for the criminal investigation police unit, training 70 investigators in the metropolitan district. The National Civil Police will also create a new criminal investigation department for crimes committed by adolescents, to be implemented in 2018.

**OUTPUT 3** Increased public knowledge and awareness of children's rights to protection and rejection of violence, including gender-based violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect and impunity of crimes against children.

**Analytical statement of progress**

As part of UNICEF's response to the Hogar Seguro crisis, UNICEF issued three public reports (one immediately after the incident, with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and two others three and eight months after the events, respectively) to keep the different stakeholders informed, maintain the general public sensitized and motivate duty bearers (particularly public institutions from the three branches of Government) to support affected children and families and address the underlying causes of this tragedy, namely, reforming the special protection system. These reports had strong repercussions in the media.

UNICEF Guatemala and its partners developed a toolkit that explains and describes mechanisms for implementing child protection at the family, community, municipal, departmental and national level. For each level, the toolkit includes a conceptual framework, working guides and graphic information identifying the main actors. Moreover, there are guides to improve parental capacities at different life cycles, and the toolkit includes information on the issues of the unaccompanied migrant children, addressing the risks they face and their rights during transit and at their final destination. The toolkit is being used in community and municipal protection systems supported by UNICEF.

Together with the Secretariat against Sexual Violence and Trafficking in Person, the Attorney General's Office, the Ministry of the Interior, the TIGO mobile telephone company and the *Fundacion Sobrevivientes* (Survivors' Foundation), UNICEF Guatemala launched a campaign to prevent online child sexual exploitation. The campaign targeted children, parents, teachers and community leaders, sensitising them to the risks and dangers for children inherent in Internet use, and giving information on how to protect children and where to report such crimes. Training was provided to 14,800 students in public and private secondary schools.

The first study on the status of children adopted domestically within Guatemala 2008–2017 was launched in partnership with the National Adoption Council, the *Fundacion Sobrevivientes* and UNICEF Guatemala. The study showed that 97 per cent of children adopted within Guatemala were successfully integrated to their adoptive families. The National Adoption Council has placed more than 1,000 children through national adoptions during this period, complying with international standards, with technical assistance and support from UNICEF Guatemala.

UNICEF Guatemala continues to work to change the generalized normalization of violence, particularly that of violence against children, and to raise awareness among the general public that the crimes committed against children need to be reported to the due authorities. The Attorney General's Office registered 36,893 reports of crimes against children as of November 2017, a 23 per cent decline from 2016.

As planned in its Country Programme, UNICEF Guatemala explored the possibility of developing an Observatory on Child Rights/violence to raise public awareness and concern on violence against children, hopefully leading to more cases being formalized; however, the office faced challenges in identifying a strategic partner which can guarantee sustainability, given the constant political crisis in the country. With the newly appointed Human Rights Ombudsperson, UNICEF Guatemala will begin negotiating the start-up of the Observatory, in collaboration with the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsperson in 2018.

**OUTCOME 3** By the end of 2019, boys and girls, especially from rural indigenous communities, will access and complete preschool and primary and will have more opportunities to complete secondary education.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

The education sector remained stable in 2017 with the same authorities leading the Ministry, despite the political crisis that led the multiple changes of other ministers. This facilitated the collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), and cooperation with the Ministry followed the planned actions. Nonetheless, the deterioration of primary enrolment continues, as it went down to 77 per cent in 2017 compared with 84 per cent in 2014. The secondary enrolment remained practically stagnated, reaching 45 per cent in 2017, compared with 44 per cent in 2014.

Critical challenges facing the education sector in Guatemala include low transition rates to secondary education, especially for girls, and the need to strengthen the capacity of education teaching and administrative staff. In addition, successful pilot work with families of children in the most at-risk poor rural and indigenous communities provides evidence which will be used for national advocacy, planning and capacity strengthening to improve educational continuity and educational quality. Examples of these advances in 2017 include:

- MINEDUC conducted specific analyses using EMIS data on access, continuity and completion rates, identifying areas where indigenous girls are most vulnerable to exclusion. Having to commute to distant – often urban – schools is the one of the main triggers of low transition rates to secondary (43 per cent nationally in 2016, but only 9 per cent in some remote provinces). On a positive note, however, once given the opportunity to attend secondary schools, girls are more likely to complete the secondary education.
- UNICEF supported MINEDUC to design a pilot project to offer secondary alternatives for indigenous girls, organizing school networks covering 10–12 communities together, with one community hosting a common secondary centre. UNICEF Guatemala supported MINEDUC in simplifying the national secondary curriculum and developing materials and teachers' guides for this model, which will also open opportunities to re-insert young mothers who gave up education following childbirth.
- UNICEF Guatemala also supported the MINEDUC in updating and simplifying the process for academic certification for children from other countries, which will benefit returning migrant children.
- To strengthen MINEDUC's capacity for management and vertical coordination with local education authorities, UNICEF Guatemala supported training emphasizing monitoring of efficiency indicators and implementing interventions accordingly. The Education Management Information System (EMIS) has been useful in monitoring students at risk of academic failure and early dropout. At the beginning of the school year, EMIS data provided inputs to provinces where enrolment had dropped in relation to 2016 as a basis for recuperation interventions.
- Given the critical role of community demand for education, UNICEF Guatemala supported a KAP survey in 160 communities where UNICEF supported women's groups (within the United Nations Joint Programme Maya), showing the important impact of women's engagement in education, including as leaders of school management committees (up from 28 per cent in 2014 to 55 per cent in 2017). In these communities, more children are now attending preschool, up from an average of 37 per cent in 2013 to 42 per cent in 2017, and 70 per cent of parents now say that girls should conclude

secondary or higher education, compared with only 43 per cent per cent in the 2014 baseline. The study also confirmed a significant improvement in girls' attendance to school, which increased from 79 per cent to 86 per cent. UNICEF shared these with Education Ministry representatives and UNICEF offices from the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Peru as part of its South-South cooperation, which will lead to establishing a regional network in 2018 (see also below).

- UNICEF and others supported MINEDUC efforts to address ECD by providing technical assistance to analyse the situation of children 0–6 years old, updating information on the legal framework, internal structure and organisation, and financial and human resources for ECD, and leading to a proposal and two-year plan to reach children in remote indigenous communities. In December, a multi-disciplinary inter-institutional specialized commission on early childhood was formed in the Social Cabinet to promote holistic integrated attention to early childhood in Guatemala. MINEDUC, together with SESAN, will coordinate this Specialized Commission to promote National Strategy for the ECD.
- To encourage parental involvement in academic success, UNICEF again promoted the Reading and Writing Contest for students, in which 678,000 students in different grades participated in 2017, compared with 8,000 in 2012. UNICEF continued its support to make reading a national priority to improve quality education. Data show the increasing interest of families in the process of achieving their children's literacy and education.
- UNICEF promoted South-South cooperation between Guatemala, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Peru to address these crucial issues: quality mother tongue instruction for indigenous children, community participation in decision making both in School Management Committees and education councils, ECD, learning networks, alternative secondary models and women empowerment. Initial agreements led to a memorandum of understanding sent to the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Peru Ministries of Education and to UNICEF offices, covering for internships, materials, research and the development of a platform to hold virtual forums and discussions among staff and experts.

**OUTPUT 1** Increased capacity of the Ministry of Education to adopt and apply standards and regulations to implement management mechanisms and to adjust budget to meet the need toward the universalization of preschool, primary and secondary education at the right age.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF provided technical assistance to MINEDUC to continue developing its educational statistics area. The school risk system provided data on students at risk of dropping out or failing the school year. This information enabled actions by provincial education offices (e.g., after-school extra classes, home visits, etc.), and facilitated close monitor of students' performance. Despite efforts to improve school failure indicators, preliminary 2017 data showed only a minimal improvement (from 28.16 per cent in 2016 to 28.14 per cent in 2017). Nationally, almost 3 of every 10 students enrolled in Grade 1 must repeat the grade.

UNICEF Guatemala's technical assistance helped increase the capacity of regional education planners to monitor indicators of enrolment, success and completion. By March 2017, planners had identified schools with lower enrolment rates compared with the prior year, and launched an outreach strategy leading to more than 74,500 primary students returning to school (particularly those whose constraint was economic). The Country Office also supported MINEDUC in identifying the main gaps and bottlenecks in access to secondary education, through EMIS. MINEDUC gathered data on girls' secondary access, identifying low grade transition rates as a problem, particularly in the rural indigenous areas. The national transition rate to secondary

level was 43 per cent; however, the rate was only 9 per cent in some remote provinces. More MINEDUC planners and officers are using EMIS data for decision-making; however, MINEDUC still needs to strengthen its capacity to promptly provide feedback to schools and school management committees to engender actions at this level.

UNICEF supported MINEDUC in designing an electronic format to analyse the situation of school water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and the first time the official data on school WASH were made available. Some 16,496 schools reported on WASH, with 3,000 reporting not having water in the school. Challenges remain, however, in terms of low reporting by schools on sanitation services, and the EMIS question will be adjusted in 2018 to obtain these data.

UNICEF support to strengthen coordination and inter-institutional communication mechanisms was instrumental in defining two provincial education plans for 2018–2020, in Huehuetenango and Totonicapán provinces. The plans include interventions on access, quality education, mother tongue instruction, management and coordination mechanisms, and infrastructure, as well as targets and indicators, and were developed together with civil society organizations (CSOs), cooperation agencies and other partners. These plans will be officially launched at the beginning of the school year, and results will be closely monitored and reported on annually.

UNICEF successfully supported MINEDUC's participation in Guatemala's Open Government Policy, in which a citizen advisory group monitors national development in various sectors, and Guatemala shared its best practices in a regional conference held in Argentina. MINEDUC will continue to report on this indicator and provide cash transfers to School Management Committees for meals and learning supplies. Plans for 2018 include piloting Open Government at the provincial level, using basic indicators already available for local auditing.

**OUTPUT 2** Enhanced skills and capacity of parents and community members to contribute to the school environment for boys and girls to access and complete preschool, primary and demand more secondary education opportunities in targeted areas.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

By supporting CSOs, UNICEF Guatemala helped strengthen local school management committees, including a notable increase women's participation, with 55 per cent of the committees being led by women in 2017, (28 per cent in 2014) in intervention areas. C4D activities carried out together with partners helped to significantly increase knowledge of communities regarding their rights. A survey was conducted to determine the change in KAP in 160 communities regarding participation in school management committees, women's role in education and community development, and child rights, among others.

Some 70 per cent of parents now say that girls should conclude secondary or higher education, compared with only 43 per cent per cent in the 2014 baseline. The study also confirmed a significant improvement in girls' attendance to school, which increased from 79 per cent to 86 per cent. The results show the cause-effect correlation between greater women's participation and girls' education, which can be potentially explored further at the national level to improve girls' education. Additionally, women's groups introduced several legal actions in courts demanding the right to equal participation, mother tongue instruction, and opportunities for their children with disabilities. Women also advocated with Congress to demand legal reform to enable equal rights for women in local development councils.

With support from UNICEF, women legally constituted a CSO to demand the improvement in education services, management of development projects, and partnerships and coordination with other local, regional and national organizations. The CSO now has more than 1,600 active women members. School management committees and women's participation will be essential in 2018 for implementing the school feeding programming established under a new law. Parents will be required to actively participate in resource management and healthy nutrition practices. Women's groups are also an asset for developing home ECD interventions to be piloted in 2018. Some 2,000 women organized networks to continue producing radio programmes, recording more than 500 in 2017 in six Mayan languages. Local partners established 26 municipal dialogue groups and trained 20 spokeswomen. Use of mother tongue, cultural values and environmental awareness are the key qualitative changes generated through active participation of women.

UNICEF supported South-South cooperation with the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Peru, focusing on citizens' participation in education. Each country presented successful experiences, such as women's networks, indigenous councils and the school management committee networks. A memorandum of understanding between Guatemala, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Peru was signed to continue collaboration on ECD, school management committees, teacher training, school networks, open government at local level, and women's participation and engagement in decision-making bodies.

UNICEF Guatemala supported the organization of a forum to discuss women's historical role in development and in education. Congresswomen from the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Peru, together with MINEDUC authorities and women-led CSOs, participated in panel discussions, a bottleneck analysis was conducted, and action plans were developed. Agreements include: a) continued networking at the regional, national and subnational levels; and b) fostering cohesion among Congresspersons to advocate for adequate legislation for indigenous populations, and MINEDUC cooperation to increase school management committees and community participation in policy-making and accountability mechanisms.

**OUTPUT 3** Enhanced capacity of the Ministry of Education to use performance monitoring networks, management and support mechanisms to guarantee positive, culturally relevant, inclusive and gender-sensitive learning experiences in schools and develop resilient communities in targeted areas.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

On the basis of the bottlenecks and barriers identified through the performance monitoring networks, UNICEF continued to support strategies to expand learning experiences, including:

Facing the low transition rates to secondary school, particularly among indigenous girls, UNICEF Guatemala supported MINEDUC to design an alternative secondary education model in which 10–12 neighbouring communities select one to host a secondary school in which accelerated and flexible learning modalities will be implemented. In these schools, students can develop their own school calendar and schedule according to their own situation, learning is achieved through real-life projects, and labour skills are developed. MINEDUC revised the curriculum for this model and provided guidelines for developing learning materials.

As the issue of migrant children became a humanitarian emergency, UNICEF Guatemala supported the MINEDUC in reviewing procedures to certify overseas studies. The new procedures ease school reintegration in Guatemala through flexible and cost-free requirements,

including a simplified ID document, electronic certifications, and simple grade-level tests. Reintegration also aims to simplify the processes for children who study in neighbouring countries, eventually aimed to lead towards a subregional agreement for these children in 2018.

Inequalities with respect to the access of indigenous children to education (especially preschool and secondary) continues to stand out. Creating regional indigenous councils is planned, both to promote the operationalization of the Law on Bi-lingual Inter-cultural Education and to increase indigenous participation in policy-making and accountability processes. MINEDUC engaged in several discussion groups to identify the main demands of indigenous communities regarding parental involvement in school decisions, policymaking, budget allocation, teacher training, mother tongue instruction, School Management Committees, and MINEDUC responsibilities. Plans for 2018 include piloting regional councils for the two main Maya groups, and progressively going to scale in the following years, as part of the South-South cooperation agreement with the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Peru.

UNICEF supported MINEDUC to analyse the current status of the Integrated Attention Programme for Children aged 0–6 years, and to reflect this analysis in the ongoing review of ECD learning guidelines (including parental programmes). Actions planned for 2018 include: highlighting current budget expenditure and increasing funds allocated for 2019, developing an ECD concept note, systematizing existing experiences and materials, evaluating MINEDUC's ECD programme, updating curricula, mapping actors working in ECD (private, municipal, public and projects), creating an ECD Unit within the MINEDUC, establishing unique registry coding number for children aged 0–3 years old, and strengthening teacher training and piloting home ECD interventions.

In partnership with TIGO, UNICEF Guatemala continued its support to MINEDUC to increase awareness on the importance of children's right to a protective environment, by improving the reporting app 'Voices for you' (available for Android and IOS), which now has 2,645 users. More than 20,000 school management committees and 71 community leaders received information on violence against children, and UNICEF Guatemala succeeded in positioning the importance of protective environments. MINEDUC established cooperation with several municipalities, CSOs and cooperation agencies to reduce violence and to support regular school attendance and well-being.

**OUTCOME 4** By the end of 2019, women, girls and boys, particularly those in rural indigenous areas, access comprehensive package for health, nutrition and WASH, to guarantee the healthy growth and development, in particular during the child's first 1,000 days (from conception to 2 years of age), and to prevent and reduce chronic malnutrition and morbidity/ mortality.

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

The education sector remained stable in 2017 with the same authorities leading the Ministry, despite the political crisis that led the multiple changes of other ministers. This facilitated the collaboration with MINEDUC, and cooperation with the Ministry followed the planned actions. Nonetheless, the deterioration of primary enrolment continues, which went down to 77 per cent in 2017, compared with 84 per cent in 2014. The secondary enrolment remained quasi-equal, 45 per cent in 2017, compared with 44 per cent in 2014.

Critical challenges facing the education sector in Guatemala include low transition rates to secondary education, especially for girls, and the need to strengthen the capacity of education teaching and administrative staff. In addition, successful pilot work with families of children in

the most at-risk poor rural and indigenous communities provides evidence which will be used for national advocacy, planning and capacity strengthening to improve educational continuity and educational quality. Examples of these advances in 2017 include:

- MINEDUC conducted specific analyses using EMIS data on access, continuity and completion rates, identifying areas where indigenous girls are most vulnerable to exclusion. Having to commute to distant – often urban – schools is the one of the main triggers of low transition rates to secondary (43 per cent nationally in 2016, but only 9 per cent in some remote provinces). On a positive note, however, once given the opportunity to attend secondary schools, girls are more likely to complete the secondary education.
- UNICEF supported MINEDUC to design a pilot project to offer secondary alternatives for indigenous girls, organizing school networks covering 10–12 communities together, with one community hosting a common secondary centre. UNICEF Guatemala supported MINEDUC in simplifying the national secondary curriculum and developing materials and teachers' guides for this model, which will also open opportunities to re-insert young mothers who gave up education following childbirth.
- UNICEF Guatemala also supported MINEDUC in updating and simplifying the process for academic certification for children from other countries, which will benefit returning migrant children.
- To strengthen MINEDUC's capacity for management and vertical coordination with local education authorities, UNICEF Guatemala supported training emphasizing monitoring of efficiency indicators and implementing interventions accordingly. The EMIS has been useful in monitoring students at risk of academic failure and early dropout. At the beginning of the school year, EMIS data provided inputs to provinces where enrolment had dropped in relation to 2016 as a basis for recuperation interventions.
- Given the critical role of community demand for education, UNICEF Guatemala supported a KAP survey in 160 communities where UNICEF supported women's groups (within the United Nations Joint Programme Maya), showing the important impact of women's engagement in education, including as leaders of School Management Committees (School Management Committees) (up from 28 per cent in 2014 to 55 per cent in 2017). In these communities, more children are now attending preschool, up from an average of 37 per cent in 2013 to 42 per cent in 2017, and 70 per cent of parents now say that girls should conclude secondary or higher education, compared with only 43 per cent per cent in the 2014 baseline. The study also confirmed a significant improvement in girls' attendance to school, which increased from 79 per cent to 86 per cent. These results show the cause-effect correlation between greater women's participation and girls' education, which can be potentially be furthered at the national level to improve girls' education. UNICEF shared these with Education Ministry representatives and UNICEF offices from the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Peru as part of its South-South cooperation, which will lead to establishing a regional network in 2018 (see also below).
- UNICEF and others supported MINEDUC efforts to address ECD by providing technical assistance to analyse the situation of children 0–6 years old, updating information on the legal framework, internal structure and organisation, and financial and human resources for ECD, and leading to a proposal and two-year plan to reach children in remote indigenous communities. In December, a multi-disciplinary inter-institutional specialized commission on early childhood was formed in the Social Cabinet to promote holistic integrated attention to early childhood in Guatemala. MINEDUC, together with SESAN, will coordinate this Specialized Commission to promote National Strategy for the ECD.

- To encourage parental involvement in academic success, UNICEF again promoted the Reading and Writing Contest for students, in which 678,000 students in different grades participated in 2017, compared with 8,000 in 2012. UNICEF continued its support to make reading a national priority to improve quality education. Data show the increasing interest of families in the process of achieving their children's literacy and education.
- UNICEF promoted South-South cooperation between Guatemala, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Peru to address these crucial issues: quality mother tongue instruction for indigenous children, community participation in decision making both in School Management Committees and education councils, ECD, learning networks, alternative secondary models and women empowerment. Initial agreements led to a memorandum of understanding sent to the Plurinational State Bolivia and Peru Ministries of Education and to UNICEF offices, covering for internships, materials, research and the development of a platform to hold virtual forums and discussions among staff and experts.

**OUTPUT 1 4.1** Strengthened management and coordination mechanisms of the governmental institutions linked to the 1,000 days initiatives to accelerate the reduction of malnutrition in a healthy environment, including emergency situations.

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

To accelerate State efforts to prevent chronic malnutrition, UNICEF advocated for greater focus on a more holistic, integrated ECD strategy. The launch of the *Lancet* series on ECD in Spanish – together with PAHO, Plan International and SESAN, was a first step to raising greater awareness and knowledge on chronic malnutrition among decision-makers and government and NGO technical personnel. Subsequently, UNICEF Guatemala advocated with key state partners to create a multi-disciplinary, inter-institutional Specialized Commission for Early Childhood, to coordinate and promote multi-sectoral ECD interventions. SESAN and the Ministry of Education led the Commission, in which key state actors, including the Ministries of Health and Social Development, among others, will participate.

UNICEF Guatemala's C4D strategy was incorporated into the official ENDPC strategy. In 2017, at least 54 Municipal Committees on Food and Nutrition Security implemented C4D educational activities to improve the parent feeding and child-rearing practice, with the participation of more than 60,000 families.

UNICEF Guatemala and FAO continued implementing the United Nations Joint Programme for the Dry Corridor in the south-eastern region, ensuring access to safe drinking water through community groups trained to maintain chlorine treatment systems for community water-tanks, benefiting 55,740 persons in 105 communities. In 2018, UNICEF will initiate the (CLTS model in this same region to promote an integrated WASH approach. The original model CLTS intervention in the western/north-western region of Guatemala continued to expand in 2017, and 64 communities were activated, and 20 communities were certified as ODF, ensuring adequate hygiene conditions for nearly 1,700 people.

Micronutrients were among women aged 10–24 years old, and 8,704 adolescent girls aged 10–19 years old received iron and folic acid supplementation. In addition, 324 adolescent and youth nutrition promoters organized activities to distribute micronutrient supplements at community level using peer-to-peer and C4D methodologies.

As a part of Zika response, UNICEF emphasized the care and support of children and families

affected by Zika. UNICEF and its partners developed training guidelines and C4D tools, used to train 230 health and protection personnel, 120 early childhood educators at 13 early stimulation centres, and 120 parents in 12 prioritized municipalities. Some 57 children with microcephaly were identified, and peer support groups to empower families were developed. Through a UNICEF Regional Office initiative, these groups participated in the 1,000 Days of Love campaign to raise awareness on children with disabilities. Most families reported insensitive and discriminatory attitudes on the part of health service providers upon the birth of Zika children, as well as insufficient social protection.

UNICEF supported the repair of water systems damaged by the earthquake affecting San Marcos province, re-establishing access to safe water for 15,540 persons (3,963 women, 3,807 men, 3,808 boys and 3,962 girls), and also distributed hygiene kits to some 60 families affected by floods in northern Guatemala.

Successful adaption of the Index for Risk Management (INFORM) methodology helped establish subnational risk indicators of all 340 municipalities, and the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction adopted the platform ensuring its sustainability.

**OUTPUT 2** 4.2 Increased capacity of the health services to reach all women (especially pregnant women), and infants to provide antenatal care, including the elimination of HIV transmission from mother to child, nutrition supplementation and counselling, to support their healthy development.

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Guatemala continues promoting and expanding the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative at multiple levels. In 2017, 10 hospitals and 8 health centres were certified as Baby Friendly Health Services, bringing total certification coverage of the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative to 26 per cent of national hospitals, and 27 per cent of health centres. In total, 11 private companies are also working to install baby-friendly spaces in their facilities. In 2017, an additional three state institutions established baby-friendly spaces, including the Ministries of Defence and Labour, and three memorandums of understanding were signed with universities to provide training on breastfeeding, reaching 633 persons from different disciplines, including nutrition students.

Despite steady progress on the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative and social mobilization, the model Midwife Breastfeeding Promoter Strategy, promoted by UNICEF Guatemala, significantly decelerated in 2017. Perceptions of midwives range from positive acknowledgement to a denial of their role, depending on the administrators in power. The chronic instability of the health sector limits the successful incorporation of midwives, who continue to be the exclusive service providers to 43 per cent of indigenous women, and significantly fewer midwives (382) were trained in 2017, although these benefited 18,000 newborn children. Despite this setback, the Ministry of Health reviewed the guidelines, and UNICEF Guatemala will renew efforts in 2018 to negotiate institutionalization of the strategy.

As of November, UNICEF Guatemala had supported the identification and treatment of 11,624 acutely malnourished children, 23 per cent of whom were treated in hospitals. Only 60 (0.5 per cent) children died in 2017 (19 fewer children than died in 2016), thanks to the improved quality of treatment at hospital level due to the Nutrition Policy supported by UNICEF.

To reduce HIV mother-to-child transmission of HIV, UNICEF Guatemala continued implementing the rapid-test screening model at first-level health services in rural indigenous

areas in three provinces (Alta Verapaz, Quiché and Sololá). This model brings screening services to communities, supported by midwives who capture pregnant women. A total of 2,174 pregnant women were screened in 2017: of those screened, two HIV-positive cases were identified, and these were referred to specialized services. In addition, 178 men were screened, and all were HIV-negative.

The successful programme to fortify sugar with vitamin A, has resulted in a relatively limited prevalence of vitamin A deficiency (3 per cent), leading Guatemala to drop vitamin A supplementation for children aged 2–5 years old, although vitamin A supplementation for children aged 6–24 months old remains a challenge. Vitamin A supplementation only reached 44 per cent of children under 1, and 16 per cent aged 1–2 years old in 2017. As UNICEF will no longer donate vitamin A from 2018 onward, and given limited government capacity to cover the needs, this situation will be carefully monitored and addressed over the coming years.

Advocacy to gain buy-in from MSPAS to develop a protocol for culturally-friendly hospitals for children and mothers suffered from the changes in health authorities. Although UNICEF will continue addressing the cultural relevance of health services, it will discontinue efforts to develop a specific protocol on this issue.

**OUTPUT 3** 4.3 Improved capacity of parents and caregivers to apply appropriate nutritional and healthy practices for their children in targeted areas.

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Guatemala continues to strengthen community engagement and participation to improve food and nutrition knowledge and behaviours related to the 1,000 days interventions, applying UNICEF's C4D/health/nutrition/WASH strategy, which is now included as the communication for development strategy within the National Strategy to Prevent Chronic Malnutrition.

At the community level, 54 municipalities are implementing community-level C4D activities, and 81 communities implemented the community-based monitoring system. Baseline data from these measurements were shared with communities, with the results showing a large gap in knowledge and inadequate practices. For example, in Huehuetenango Province, results from 22 communities showed that, with the exception of hygiene knowledge, other knowledge and adequate practices were very low (44 per cent adequate knowledge and 55 per cent adequate practice for prenatal care, 59 per cent adequate knowledge, and 56 per cent adequate practice for breastfeeding, 28 per cent adequate knowledge, and 51 per cent adequate practice for complementary feeding, 14 for adequate knowledge, 27 per cent adequate practice for micronutrients).

These data were subsequently used to develop community educational plans. In 2018, the initial baseline measurement will be compared with a second measurement to detect improvements at community level. The community-based monitoring activity generated opportunities for in-depth dialogue among and between community members and those in charge of monitoring, leading to the community identifying underlying causes and reflecting on these issues. For example, in one community, the prevalence of domestic violence was identified as a key bottleneck, proving the need for multisectoral interventions to improve the nutrition.

In 2017, the C4D WASH strategy continued to expand its coverage using a participatory video, and 25 municipalities and 119 communities worked on WASH issues using this tool, of these,

49 managed their own projects to solve WASH problems they had identified. In 2018, UNICEF will promote incorporating the C4D WASH strategy into the CLTS strategy.

UNICEF Guatemala provided follow-up to 15 community-based ECD spaces in Totonicapá, and Huehuetenango provinces, where trained volunteers are teaching appropriate early stimulation methods to families. Nearly 500 children and more than 150 pregnant women regularly participate in these centres. A community consultation process prior to establishing these centres led to more men being involved in organizing the centres which, in turn, raised interest and awareness, as well as increasing the participation of fathers and grandfathers.

In 2017, UNICEF Guatemala collaborated with Rafael Landívar University and the Ministry of Health to design and implement a diploma course on C4D for Zika. Technical teams from the Ministry of Health, the protection system, NGOs, and international cooperation agencies, were provided with key tools to create or improve community engagement strategies and risk communication at different levels to create awareness and to manage the consequences of Zika. Some 60 participants implemented actions for community engagement, using key messages to promote behavioural changes. Training included information related to child rights, cultural approaches, participation strategies and inclusive actions, mainly for children with disabilities and their families.

## Document centre

### Evaluation and research

Title	Sequence number	Type of report
¡Mírame! / Look at me!	2017/006	Study
Final Assessment of Joint Program: Food and Nutrition Security	2017/005	Study
Qualitative report on Zika Response	2017/002	Study
Evaluation of UNICEF support to the National Strategy on the Protection of Human Rights of Girls and Boys 2014-2016	2017/008	Evaluation

### Other publications

Title
World Children's Day: Message from UNICEF Representative
The Community, Our Responsibility Module 1, 2, and 3: For health personnel
The Community, Our Responsibility, 1, 2 and 3 Module for Parents
The Community, Our Responsibility. Module 1, 2, 3 for Teachers
Kids Take Over - World Children's Day
#GuateCrece: video to promote Early Childhood Development
Training video on Intradermal Vaccination
24 set of Human Interest Stories
¡MÍRAME! Soy indígena y también soy Guatemala
Hogar Seguro: Eight-month situation report
Hogar Seguro Crisis; Three-month situation report

## Lessons learned

Document type/category	Title
Lesson Learned	Attention and consular protection of unaccompanied migrant children in Guatemalan consulates abroad.
Lesson Learned	Community-based Monitoring System of 1,000 days actions

## Programme documents

Document type	Title	Name
CPD	CPD 2015–2019	2015-2019 Guatemala CPD Exec Board document PL14.pdf
CPAP	Plan de Acción del Programa de País 2015–2019 entre el Gobierno de Guatemala y el Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia	2 UNICEF Plan de Acción del Programa de País 2015 01122014.pdf
CPD	Country Programme Document: Guatemala	1 FINAL 2014-PL14-Guatemala_CPd-EN.pdf