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Country programme document

El Salvador

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for El Salvador is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$4,250,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$16,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2022 to 2026.

* E/ICEF/2022/1.

Note: The present document was processed in its entirety by UNICEF.



Programme rationale

1. The 2020 United Nations common country analysis for El Salvador describes the principal social and economic difficulties that the country faces, which have been aggravated by the protracted coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) health crisis. The UNICEF 2021 situation analysis examines the detailed trends in the progressive realization of children's rights, considering the perspectives of girls, boys, adolescents and youth, as well as the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the fifth and sixth periodic reports of El Salvador.¹
2. Children constitute 28.3 per cent (1,788,152) of the total population of El Salvador of 6,321,042.²
3. The disabled population of El Salvador is estimated at 463,075, of which 26 per cent (119,944) are children. Physical, mental and psychosocial disabilities are the most common disabilities affecting children.³
4. The age structure of El Salvador is optimal in terms of a demographic dividend.⁴ This reality drives the demand for the State to guarantee comprehensive and responsive educational trajectories and social policies that promote the inclusion of youth, particularly young people living in rural areas, in its labour markets. Fifty-one per cent of the country's youth are female; nevertheless, the participation of women in the labour force is two times lower than that of working age men.
5. The incidence of multidimensional poverty in El Salvador is 27.2 per cent, affecting 508,335 households or 1,933,742 people, of which 17.3 per cent are in urban areas and 43.5 per cent are in rural areas. Moreover, multidimensional poverty is concentrated in families with children (33.8 per cent): its incidence is nearly twice that of adults-only households (17.4 per cent).
6. Job and income losses resulting from the COVID-19 crisis have impacted progress in poverty eradication. During 2019 and 2020, extreme poverty increased by 2.4 per cent and poverty by 6.0 per cent, rising to 8 per cent from 5.6 per cent and to 36.4 per cent from 30.4 per cent, respectively, making El Salvador the second most affected country by monetary poverty in Central America.⁵
7. The State budget reached \$7,453.5 million in 2021 (30 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020): 75.5 per cent from tax revenues; 0.5 per cent capital income; 2.0 per cent other fees; and 21.1 per cent public debt. In previous years, El Salvador experienced an increase in public debt, posing fiscal challenges for the current and upcoming years.⁶
8. The inadequate provision of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, exacerbated by the pandemic, has deepened social inequality and inequity. Access to piped water and sanitation exceeds 90 per cent of households in urban areas, while only 77 per cent have access in rural areas. Eighty-four per cent of poor households with children lack access to sanitation and 44 per cent to drinking water.⁷

¹ CRC/C/SLV/CO/5-6.

² Data on demography, multidimensional poverty, school attendance, connectivity and children living without their parents are from the National Statistics Bureau (2021).

³ Data on children with disabilities are from UNICEF, the National Statistics Bureau and the National Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (2018).

⁴ Rivera et al, (2019).

⁵ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (2020). Available at https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/46688/8/S2100149_en.pdf.

⁶ Data are from the Ministry of Finance (2020).

⁷ DIGESTYC Multipurpose Household Survey (2019). Available at <http://www.digestyc.gob.sv/index.php/temas/des/ehpm/publicaciones-ehpm.html>.

9. The COVID-19 pandemic has strained the health system, causing a change in focus to pandemic mitigation and continuity of basic services, and has increased the demand for mental health services.

10. Progress made in three health and well-being indicators of Sustainable Development Goal 3 could be jeopardized, given the ongoing COVID-19 crisis: (a) maternal mortality (24.3 per 100,000 live births in 2019); (b) under-5 mortality (9.28 per 1,000 live births in 2020); and (c) neonatal mortality (5.0 per 1,000 live births in 2020). These rates represent reductions, which the Ministry of Health attributes to the institutionalization of 99 per cent of deliveries. El Salvador is also the first country in Central America to receive World Health Organization certification for the elimination of malaria.⁸

11. Between 2010 and 2016, the vaccination rate for the triple viral and pentavalent 3 vaccines dropped by 14.6 per cent and 12.9 per cent, respectively, with the combined rate of vaccination for the two vaccines falling from 90 per cent to nearly 80 per cent. The Ministry of Health estimated an additional 15 per cent decrease in 2020 owing to COVID-19-related factors.

12. Although there has been a sustained downward trend in adolescent fertility rates during the past decade, they remain among the highest in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the number of births of women aged 15 to 19 standing at 68.6 per 1,000.⁹

13. Although girls and adolescents aged 10 to 19 represent 24 per cent of total pregnancies, their rate of prenatal registration has decreased since 2015, triggering school desertion and maternal and infant mortality and underscoring instances of sexual violence and gender vulnerability.

14. Malnutrition is an ongoing challenge, with 7.9 per cent of children suffering from severe malnutrition, 20.6 per cent from overweight and 16.2 per cent from obesity. In 2017, the cost of the double burden of malnutrition surpassed \$2.5 million (10.3 per cent of GDP). Four of ten children with this diagnosis do not complete primary school and eight of ten do not complete secondary school.

15. Only 46.7 per cent of children under 6 months of age received exclusive breastfeeding, 41.0 per cent in urban areas versus 59.0 per cent in rural areas. In 2018, only 55.2 per cent (7,485) of children aged 1 to 4 years with malnutrition received nutritional monitoring and support.¹⁰

16. Early childhood development (ECD) services reach only 5.3 per cent of children aged 0 to 3 years, while just 54.5 per cent of children aged 4 to 6 years attend preschool. Approximately 40 per cent of students enter the education system late (in the first grade). Grade repetition and/or school dropouts are common, particularly in the transition from sixth to seventh grade. Learning poverty is prevalent, with only 34 per cent of high-school graduates able to read and understand a simple text.¹¹ The latest assessment by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (Ministry of Education) (2018) indicates that address changes (66 per cent), migration (45 per cent), job searches (20 per cent), gang threats (12 per cent) and adolescent pregnancies

⁸ Ministry of Health and WHO (2020). Available at [El Salvador certificado libre de malaria por la OMS - OPS/OMS | Organización Panamericana de la Salud \(paho.org\)](https://www.paho.org/es/temas/malaria).

⁹ Data on adolescent fertility and prenatal registration come from the United Nations Population Fund (2021).

¹⁰ United Nations Children's Fund and Ministry of Health (2014).

¹¹ Data on education coverage, emergency preparedness and access to basic services in schools are from the Ministry of Education (2021), available at <https://www.mined.gob.sv/EstadisticaWeb/observatorio/2018/OBSERVATORIO%20SAN%20SALVADOR.pdf>; and Household and Multipurpose Survey, 2020, page 9, available at <http://www.digestyc.gob.sv/index.php/temas/des/ehpm/publicaciones-ehpm.html>.

(3 per cent) are the main causes for school dropout. At the beginning of 2020, 84.4 per cent of children aged 4 to 12 years and 83.8 per cent of adolescents aged 13 to 17 years were in the education system. During the COVID-19 pandemic, however, schools remained closed from March 2020 to April 2021.

17. The intermittency of in-person education due to COVID-19 confinement measures has aggravated the learning crisis. The Government has sought to bridge the digital divide, especially in rural areas, where only 6.5 per cent of households have connectivity.

18. El Salvador is vulnerable to rising sea levels, increased heat waves, extreme tropical storms, frequent and prolonged droughts, and floods. Six of ten schools are not prepared to face environmental risks and disasters. A total of 1,943 schools require improved sanitation, 938 lack access to drinking water and 964 receive intermittent water service.

19. Many children are exposed to violence in their first years of life. The latest health survey (2014) notes that 5 of 10 boys and girls aged 1 to 14 years experience violent discipline at home, while 32.2 per cent experience psychological aggression and 39.4 per cent physical punishment.

20. Violence has differentiated impacts. While homicides have diminished in the past five years, 1 of 10 victims are young men (13–35 years), while sexual violence disproportionately affects girls and young women. Between 2016 and 2020, the National Civil Police reported over 25,000 sexual crimes, of which 54 per cent of the victims were girls. Reporting of sexual crimes has increased progressively since 2016, doubling by 2019. Limited access to complaint mechanisms during the COVID-19 confinement and/or fear of reporting while living with a perpetrator may explain the reporting rates, which decreased by 27 per cent in 2020. As at 3 November 2021, official government figures indicate that 257 children are reported as missing (165 girls and 92 boys), signaling a concerning pattern disproportionately affecting girls.¹²

21. Migration is fuelled by the search for better living conditions and the need to escape from violence. More than 72,500 children live without one or both parents as the result of migration. According to the International Organization for Migration, the reasons for migration by children and adolescents are: economic factors (45.0 per cent); family reunification (30.7 per cent); and insecurity (19.3 per cent).¹³ Shortfalls in specialized services for children pose barriers to their protection and reintegration in the community.

22. Evaluations of ECD, the prevention of violence at the local level and children on the move inform the present country programme, and their implications are detailed in paragraphs 38, 43 and 44, respectively. With regard to humanitarian action, the COVID-19 response demonstrated that the cluster approach was effective in optimizing coordination among the Government, civil society, United Nations agencies, the private sector and other actors. Partnerships with international financial institutions, including the World Bank, also proved strategic in leveraging funding for ECD and addressing educational gaps aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, while providing reference points for other public investment collaboration opportunities that would prioritize the most affected sectors.

¹² El Salvador Attorney General's office, Directorate of Analysis, Research Techniques and Information, Statistics Department.

¹³ International Organization for Migration (2020).

Programme priorities and partnerships

23. The country programme is the result of a consultative process with the Government, civil society, the private sector and the United Nations to support national efforts to enable the effective and universal implementation of children's rights, focusing on the reduction of inequalities among the most disadvantaged children, and the progressive elimination of barriers that prevent children from exercising their right to reach their full potential. It is strategically aligned to support all 10 priorities identified in the Government's Social Development Plan 2019–2024 and to contribute to the implementation of all seven result areas of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), 2022–2026, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025. The country programme will contribute to the implementation of the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of El Salvador of 2018¹⁴ and their follow-up.

24. The programme is designed to address the principal threats to the rights of children, which have been aggravated by the effects of the COVID-19 crisis, through its four core components: (a) health, nutrition and WASH; (b) educational transformation; (c) protection of children from violence, exploitation and abuse; and (d) inclusive social protection.

25. The programme is based on the principles of human rights, gender equality, equity and environmental sustainability and is focused on reducing inequalities that impact the most vulnerable children of El Salvador, namely those living in contexts of multidimensional poverty, including in rural areas, with decreased access to social services, and in communities experiencing high incidences of violence.

26. To achieve this vision, the programme prioritizes early childhood and adolescent development. UNICEF will support the implementation of the comprehensive national ECD policy, *Crecer Juntos*. Interventions will include the prevention of and attention to adolescent pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections; the use of innovative educational modalities, the prevention of violence; and the promotion of adolescents' agency in sociopolitical spheres.

27. The UNICEF 2021 gender programmatic review informs this country programme. To promote gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women, UNICEF will continue to integrate gender-responsive and transformative approaches, including the promotion of new masculinities, and will implement the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2022–2025, with emphasis on the elimination of gender-based violence and adolescent pregnancies, while promoting the active participation of fathers in raising their children.

28. The programme is focused on strengthening national capacities by supporting the education system in increasing its resilience and quality, and on developing the capacities of the health-care system, particularly at the first level of care, including ECD services at the local level. With respect to child and social protection systems, UNICEF will support the development of a unified benefits registration system, the creation of scalable and sustainable intervention models and the strengthening of coordination among national actors for a comprehensive, effective and timely response to the challenges children face, including in emergencies.

29. UNICEF will continue to develop its evidence-based analyses on the situation of children, including through its strategic alliances with academic institutions and think tanks to inform and support the Government, civil society and international

¹⁴ CRC/C/SLV/CO/5-6.

financial institutions in policy formulation, programming, budget allocation and financing, and will advocate for increased public and private investment for children.

30. Existing partnerships will be consolidated, and new ones forged, to mobilize national institutions, development banks, civil society and the private sector to promote and support concerted action to increase and improve service coverage.

31. The changes sought take into account the need to actively develop and promote the knowledge and agency of children in the implementation of their rights by including them in the design, implementation and monitoring of public policies.

32. UNICEF will work with, among others, the Government, development banks, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, academia and the private sector to ensure that children grow up in a society that recognizes and is committed to guaranteeing their rights. Such alliances will also foster the availability of comprehensive childcare services for both private and public sector employees.

33. El Salvador is prone to natural disasters and highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. All programme components will bolster national capacities through an evidence-based approach to strengthen disaster preparedness, risk reduction and response, and adaptation to climate change.

34. All sectors will support the recovery from COVID-19 in alignment with the United Nations framework for the immediate socioeconomic response to COVID-19, supporting vaccination and essential health and nutrition services and the safe return to schools, with digital learning options; improving WASH in schools; supporting affected children through social and child protection; and engaging in high-level dialogue with the Government on recovery strategies to inform the design of programmes to mitigate socioeconomic impacts and violence.

Health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene

35. In coordination with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF will contribute to improving the health of children and pregnant and lactating women by promoting access to quality services and adolescent-friendly interventions that incorporate mental health services, including in emergencies. This component will strengthen the health system, prioritizing first-level care to promote infant, maternal and adolescent health. The work will focus on: (a) supporting the Government in its COVID-19 response, including vaccination, as well as in the development of innovative strategies to augment compliance with regular vaccination schedules for children under 5 years of age; (b) supporting the continued adoption of the care for child development approach at the national level, prioritizing early detection of children at risk of developing or suffering from disabilities and creating a referral system; and (c) strengthening health services through the inclusion of quality mental and reproductive health for adolescents to prevent first and second pregnancies, detect and provide care for victims of sexual abuse and prevent sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. Information systems and capacity-building, including through the adoption of protocols and norms, will be supported to promote the generation of evidence and data-driven programming, as well as to improve inter-institutional coordination among duty-bearing entities.

36. In coordination with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF will contribute to ensuring that children and pregnant and lactating women gain access to quality services to improve their nutritional health, including in humanitarian situations. Priority actions include: (a) supporting the Government in the generation of evidence regarding the nutritional situation, including micronutrient deficiencies affecting children, prioritizing children under 5 years of age and pregnant and lactating women; (b)

promoting, supporting and protecting breastfeeding, including through the expansion of human milk banks to improve survival for premature and low-birth-weight infants; and (c) promoting healthy nutritional habits to combat malnutrition, overweight and obesity. UNICEF will support the development of the nutritional component of the comprehensive national ECD policy, *Crecer Juntos*, targeting the improvement of services by strengthening comprehensive and coordinated inter-institutional action and surveillance and prioritizing support for evidence-generation models to inform the provision of nutritional services and sustainable food systems in communities with the greatest incidence/need, while enhancing caretaker and community knowledge and skills regarding care and nutritional practices.

37. The WASH component will contribute to the strengthening of the sector through capacity-building aimed at supporting the development of strategies, policies and programmes to increase the provision of safe, equitable, sustainable, climate resilient, quality and gender-sensitive WASH services, including in humanitarian contexts. Interventions will: (a) advocate for and support the development of WASH sector governance to strengthen capacities, institutional coordination mechanisms, monitoring and policy formulation; (b) support national authorities in expanding access to inclusive WASH services in rural areas, particularly in health facilities and schools; and (c) promote climate-resilient and culturally sensitive community and household WASH practices to reduce arboviruses and fecal-oral transmissible diseases. As humanitarian sector lead, UNICEF will support disaster preparedness, contribute to the strengthening of WASH sector capacities and support the humanitarian-development nexus, in coordination with the humanitarian country team and national authorities.

Transformation of the education sector

38. To address ECD needs, the Government of El Salvador launched its multisectoral national policy, *Crecer Juntos*, in 2020, leveraging financing obtained from the development banks and UNICEF technical support. The policy presents a historic opportunity to expand ECD services throughout the country. UNICEF is committed to deepening this expansion by working with government institutions, development banks, civil society organizations and the private sector to consolidate and support the implementation of the policy, which is focused on ensuring inclusive, sufficient, articulated, equitable and quality ECD services. To that end, UNICEF will support inter-institutional coordination and the adoption of best practices and will continue to advocate for increased and sustainable investment in the financing of ECD. In tandem, UNICEF will promote, through innovative methodologies, positive child-rearing practices aimed at caretakers, including men.

39. The impact of COVID-19 on the education system underscored the systemic challenges faced by El Salvador. The Government is transforming the educational sector based on lessons learned in 2020 to develop and implement inclusive, flexible and innovative learning models to improve student retention, particularly among children at risk of school dropout, and to include children that are outside of the education system for diverse reasons including pregnancy, disabilities, poverty, migration and displacement and violence. UNICEF will support the strategies of the Ministry of Education to bridge learning gaps, including by supporting the Government's acquisition of information technology equipment, its provision of Internet connectivity, the creation of quality digital contents for flexible virtual/hybrid learning and the promotion of digital skills for students and teachers alike, including those with disabilities. Given its role as the Global Partnership for Education coordinating agency, UNICEF will support the Ministry, working in close coordination with the World Bank and NGOs, to strengthen sector planning capacities and design learning evaluation mechanisms. Socioeducational and psychological

support have proven key to securing the retention and reintegration of children in the education system, particularly for those who are returnees, internally displaced, victims of violence and pregnant adolescents. UNICEF will support the strengthening of school counselling and the training of teachers to prevent school dropouts and strengthen resilience.

40. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the need to strengthen emergency preparedness in the educational sector to ensure the continuity of services in emergency contexts. UNICEF will support the development of disaster preparedness policies and plans and will act as sector lead to coordinate humanitarian response efforts. Based on lessons learned, UNICEF will support the Ministry of Education in introducing its environmental and climate change curricula, promoting innovative methodologies to incentivize and position children to become agents of change.

Child protection

41. UNICEF will strengthen child protection, especially for the most vulnerable children, including those who are migrants, returnees, internally displaced or victims of violence, exploitation and abuse, as well as adolescents in conflict with the law by increasing access to quality specialized services nationally and locally in support of their reintegration, building resilience and guaranteeing the restitution of their rights, including in humanitarian contexts. Special attention will be given to girls and adolescent women, who are more vulnerable to sexual abuse.

42. UNICEF will continue to support system consolidation and improved services, strengthening prevention and case management, facilitating reporting and promoting counselling through helplines. UNICEF will promote legal reforms that adhere to international standards and their implementation. With regard to juvenile justice, UNICEF will support the Salvadoran Institute for Comprehensive Child and Adolescent Development (ISNA) in implementing a reintegration model for children in conflict with the law and deprived of liberty, designed with UNICEF support, in all its centres nationwide. In coordination with the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONNA), ISNA and the Ministry of Education, UNICEF will support the creation of specialized programmes and protocols for child victims, especially adolescent girls, in line with international standards.

43. At the local level, child protection systems are constrained by a lack of resources, which hinders their capacity to protect, prevent and address violence against children within families and in communities. UNICEF will focus on municipalities with a high incidence of violence, displacement and migration to expand the implementation of the evaluated intervention model to prevent violence at the local level, creating protective environments for children and families. In coordination with the justice sector, CONNA, ISNA and the Ministry of Education, UNICEF will support the creation of specialized gender-responsive quality services and protocols for child victims, especially adolescent girls, in line with international standards. Through multisectoral approaches, this component will promote discussion on and the transformation of social norms to prevent violence, child marriage, early unions and other harmful practices, especially for girls.

44. Violence is a systemic cause of displacement and migration. Reintegration services for returned and displaced children are limited and not available throughout El Salvador. UNICEF will support scaling based on lessons learned and best practices garnered from its evaluations. Together with ISNA and NGOs, UNICEF has developed a comprehensive reintegration model incorporating legal and psychosocial support, community-based protection actions, educational reintegration, employment training and life planning. Evidence-generation will be supported to deepen

institutional capacities and policies to meet the needs of displaced and migrant children. This approach builds on the humanitarian-development nexus.

Inclusive social protection

45. UNICEF will contribute to ensuring that children, especially those in multidimensional poverty, benefit from a social protection system oriented toward preventing and reducing poverty and promoting the more equitable and comprehensive exercise of their rights. Although the financing of policies and programmes for children has increased considerably, access to and coverage of services and programmes that would enable transformative change in children's lives remain limited. The adoption of the new ECD policy, Crecer Juntos, presents an opportunity to design more comprehensive, efficient and effective programmes and services.

46. In the context of rising inequality and increased multidimensional poverty triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF will support national authorities in the development of shock-resistant social protection systems that take into account economic, sanitary, emergency and climate-related threats affecting vulnerable children and their families, especially those living in poverty. UNICEF will design a multidimensional poverty map leveraging census data and other administrative registries to draw attention to the situation of vulnerable children. It will also support the analysis of existing social protection programmes and promote the establishment of a unified central identity registry from birth.

47. In a context of limited resources and competing, multiple requirements to safeguard children's rights, public social policies and programmes must be relevant, evidence-based and efficient. This component will strengthen national monitoring and analytical capacities to inform decision-making vis-à-vis public financing of sectoral and intersectoral investments in support of children and their families, with a special emphasis on poverty. UNICEF will continue to mobilize allies to engage in evidence-based advocacy, promoting increased fiscal space and higher priority for programmes benefiting children.

Programme effectiveness

48. A programme effectiveness component covering cross-sectoral workstreams, including monitoring and evaluation, disaster risk reduction and mitigation and adaptation to climate change, that serves to enhance overall country programme results and the positioning of children's issues at the highest level of the academic, media and political discourse will be included.

49. In order to ensure that children's rights have proper visibility on the national agenda, communication and public awareness campaigns leveraging traditional, digital and social media will support the components of the country programme. UNICEF will broaden its communication strategies by establishing partnerships with the Government, civil society and the private sector. The participation and mobilization of adolescents will be prioritized, and behavioural change will be promoted to enable children to exercise their rights.

Summary budget table

<i>Programme component</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene	900	2 000	2 900
Transformation of the education sector	750	6 000	6 750
Child protection	750	6 000	6 750
Inclusive social protection	900	1 000	1 900
Programme effectiveness	950	1 000	1 950
Total	4 250	16 000	20 250

Programme and risk management

50. The present country programme document outlines UNICEF contributions to national priorities and results for children and serves as the primary instrument of accountability to the Executive Board for the alignment of results and resources assigned to the programme.

51. UNICEF will contribute to national development results through UNSDCF result groups and participate in all relevant national policy forums, including donor coordination groups and strategic alliances such as the Global Partnership for Education, with the Government, donors, civil society, the private sector and development banks, among others, to galvanize a whole-of-society approach to supporting children and the implementation of their rights.

52. UNICEF will support early warning mechanisms to allow timely detection and intervention regarding threats to the implementation of the country programme and operations. A resource mobilization strategy will be developed and monitored.

53. UNICEF will invest in building the capacity of implementing partners and service providers and collaborate closely with the United Nations to combat and address sexual exploitation and abuse in its programme implementation.

54. UNICEF will ensure that its emergency preparedness system is periodically updated and will strengthen the capacity of its implementing partners in emergency response. UNICEF will contribute to the humanitarian country team leading the education, nutrition, WASH and child protection clusters.

Monitoring, learning and evaluation

55. Monitoring and evaluation will be based on the results and resources framework (see annex), as well as on the costed evaluation plan. UNICEF will contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the UNSDCF through the United Nations Inter-agency Monitoring and Evaluation Group.

56. To monitor the situation of children and generate evidence for measuring the impact of national policies and programmes, UNICEF will reinforce the monitoring and evaluation capacities of national and subnational government counterparts, as well as civil society, and contribute to the scaling-up of innovative initiatives and intervention models.

57. UNICEF will continue to collect, compile and analyse data on the situation of children and gauge progress made towards the fulfilment of their rights, prioritizing existing information gaps, including in the areas of mental health, violence against children and the socioeconomic impacts of the health crisis. UNICEF will advocate for the development of national surveys on health, nutrition and violence affecting children and support data collection on progress made on the Sustainable Development Goals related to children. UNICEF will support El Salvador in the presentation of reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and follow up on its concluding observations.

58. The country programme will be evaluated in 2025, and three thematic evaluations will be conducted aimed at lessons learned, best practices and recommendations derived from programme implementation.

Annex

Results and resources framework

El Salvador – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2022–2026

Convention on the Rights of the Child: articles 1–41

National priorities:

- Sustainable Development Goals: 1–6, 10, 13, 16, 17
- Social Development Plan 2019–2024: poverty and inequality, nutrition, early childhood development, youth capabilities, reduction of mortality and avoidable disability, gender equality, reduction of risk related to climate change, positive cultural practices, public safety.

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) outcomes involving UNICEF:

By 2026:

- All persons, especially those in the most vulnerable conditions who face exclusion, have equitable access to education, health, social services and comprehensive social protection systems, which will contribute to the reduction of multidimensional poverty and inequality gaps in all their forms.
- All persons, especially those in the most vulnerable conditions owing to gender inequalities, increase their participation and inclusion in the political, social, and economic spheres and fully exercise their right to a life free from violence and discrimination.
- Salvadoran institutions ensure coverage and quality of care, specialized comprehensive protection, reintegration and economic inclusion of migrants, returnees, people in transit or forcibly displaced persons, as well as their families.
- All persons, particularly those in vulnerable situations, have greater opportunities to access decent, productive work and sustainable livelihoods in an environment of inclusive, innovative and sustainable economic transformation.
- The institutions and the population of El Salvador are more prepared for and resilient to disasters, manage risks effectively, adapt better and mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Salvadoran institutions strengthen democratic governance guaranteeing the rule of law, inclusive political and civic participation, as well as the prevention of and fight against corruption, promoting transparency and accountability.
- People live in a more peaceful and secure environment, in which they are better protected against organized crime and violence in all their forms and have greater access to a fair and effective justice system that guarantees reparation for victims and social reintegration of people in conflict with the law.

Outcome indicators measuring change that reflect UNICEF contribution:

- Percentage of the population living under the international poverty line
- Multidimensional Poverty Index
- Social expenditure as a percentage of the general State budget
- Percentage of the population aged 14–24 that is not studying or employed, of the total population in that age range
- Child mortality rate (under 5 years)
- Maternal mortality rate
- Percentage of households with access to improved water sources

- Percentage of government institutions implementing at least 2 equality and discrimination eradication policy instruments
- School attendance rate
- Percentage of the population aged 12–17 that has or has had a marital or non-marital relationship
- Number of children and adolescents receiving care (reception and follow-up) in child, adolescent and family care centres
- Number of returnees receiving reintegration assistance
- Proportion of the displaced and returned population in need of protection with effective access to comprehensive protection services and humanitarian assistance
- El Salvador adopts and applies national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, Goal Areas: 1–5

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
1 and 5	1. Health, nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)	Regular vaccination scheme coverage B: 71% (2020) T: 78% (2026)	Ministry of Health (MINSAL) statistics	1. Children and pregnant and lactating women access quality health services, including adolescent-friendly services and mental health services. 2. Children and pregnant and lactating women access quality nutritional services to improve their nutritional status, according to evidence and data.	MINSAL, Office of the First Lady, National Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, United Nations, private sector, civil society organizations	900	2 000	2 900
		Percentage of infants (0–5 months) who are fed exclusively with breast milk B: 47% (2014) T: 55% (2026)	National Health Survey, National Health Institute					
		Adolescent (15–19 years) fertility rate B: 68.6 per 1,000 (2020) T: 65 per 1,000 (2026)	MINSAL statistics					
		Percentage of schools with access to WASH services B: 6% (2020) T: 40% (2026)	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MINEDUCYT) statistics					

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
		Percentage of health-care facilities with access to WASH services B: 18% (2020) T: 50% (2026)	MINSAL statistics	3. Public institutions have the capacity to develop policies, strategies and programmes that ensure multi- level access to safe, equitable, sustainable, gender-sensitive and quality WASH services.				
1	2. Education	Net enrolment rate B (2020): Initial: 5.3% Preschool: 54.5% Primary: 80.9% Lower secondary: 37.9% T (2026): Initial: 8.3% Preschool: 57.5% Primary: 81.9% Lower secondary: 38.9%	MINEDUCYT statistics	1. Every child under 8 years of age, especially the most vulnerable (i.e. children with disabilities), have access to quality early childhood development services to contribute to their comprehensive development. 2. Children, especially the most vulnerable, have access to innovative and quality educational opportunities, including multimodal learning offered	MINEDUCYT, Salvadoran Institute for Comprehensive Child and Adolescent Development (ISNA), development banks, NGOs, private sector	750	6 000	6 750
		Percentage of students with a basic level of achievement in AVANZO examination B: 21.5% (2020) T: 18.5% (2026)	MINEDUCYT statistics					

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
				by MINEDUCYT. 3. The education system increases its capacity for preparedness and response to emergencies and increases the mobilization of children for disaster risk reduction and climate change.				
2,3 and 7	3. Child protection	Child homicide rate (under 18 years) B: 65.1 per 100,000 (2020) T: 60 per 100,000 (2026)	National Civil Police and General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses (DIGESTYC) statistics	1. Institutions of the national child protection system and the justice sector improve their capacities and coordination to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation. 2. The most vulnerable children and those from the most violent municipalities have access to specialized programmes for the prevention of violence, in particular gender violence, and victims have	National Council for Children and Adolescents, ISNA MINEDUCYT, General Directorate of Migration and Alien Affairs, Legislative Assembly, municipalities, NGOs, United Nations, private sector	750	6 000	6 750
		Number of girls and adolescents with access to specialized sexual violence care services B: 2,393 (2019) T: 40% increase (2026)	Office of the Attorney General statistics					
		Number of returned and displaced children with access to specialized protection services (including psychosocial support) and humanitarian assistance B: 2,040 (2019) T: 40% increase (2026)	International Organization for Migration and Office of the Human Rights Procurator statistics					

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
				<p>access to quality services for the restitution of their rights, including psychosocial support.</p> <p>3. Migrants, returnees and displaced children access quality programmes and services for their reintegration and the strengthening of their resilience.</p>				
1 and 4	4. Inclusive social protection	<p>Percentage of households with children and adolescents in multidimensional poverty</p> <p>B: 33.8% (2020) T: 28.8% (2026)</p>	Multipurpose Household Survey, DIGESTYC	<p>1. National authorities have the capacity to generate policies and programmes aimed at designing and universalizing a preventive social protection system against social, environmental and health shocks aimed at children and adolescents and their families, especially those living in poverty and/or with children with disabilities and teenage mothers.</p>	<p>Presidency, Secretariat of Innovation, Ministry of Finance, academia, development banks, private sector, Legislative Assembly, NGOs</p>	900	1 000	1 900

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
						<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
				2. National authorities increase their capacity to monitor, analyse and invest in sectoral and intersectoral policies aimed at children, adolescents and their families, particularly those in multidimensional poverty.				
2, 5 and 6	5. Programme effectiveness					950	1 000	1 950
Total resources						4 250	16 000	20 250