

Honduras

Update on the context and situation of children

Honduras is suffering from long-standing humanitarian crises that have further weakened the already limited capacity of the State and the coping capacity of communities. In 2021, the situation of children continued to be negatively impacted by the social and economic effects of COVID-19 and tropical storms Eta and Iota. In addition, violence is a daily reality for children and adolescents in many communities, affecting them in school, at home and in the community in the form of homicides, disappearances, extortion, sexual abuse and forced recruitment. As a result, thousands of children, adolescents and their families decide to migrate in search of safety and opportunity. Their migration journey, in turn, increases the risk of exploitation, violence and death.

The United Nations, in coordination with the humanitarian network, led a multisectoral exercise to develop a Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for 2021 and extend the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) into 2022. The HNO 2021 estimates that there are 2.8 million people in need of assistance in Honduras, of whom 405,000 are children. They face increasing, overlapping and multidimensional risks, in a context of extreme fragility. Two million people were affected by the food crisis, according to the 2021 Global Report on Food Crises. Levels of poverty were also exacerbated by the compounded effects of the pandemic and Eta/Iota, according to data from the Honduran National Institute of Statistics, which indicate that poverty increased by 13.9 percentage points and extreme poverty by 9.4 percentage points between 2019 and 2021.

Access to education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and health services was greatly reduced due to these multiple crises, especially for the most vulnerable, putting at risk the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, among others.

Approximately 1 million school-age children were out of school at the beginning of 2020. In addition, more than half a million children dropped out of school during the pandemic, according to the Education Humanitarian Cluster. Only 68.2 per cent of schools have basic access to drinking water and 12.5 per cent to basic hygiene services, making it more difficult to comply with biosecurity protocols to enable a full reopening in 2022, as planned.

Data from the 2019 National Demographic and Health Survey/ Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (ENDESA/MICS) revealed that half of the population lacks access to an improved and faecal-free source of drinking water in their homes, evidencing the lack of a climate-resilient, inclusive and responsive approach in WASH services. The situation is reported to have worsened after Eta/Iota damaged 535 WASH systems.

According to a United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean evaluation, the tropical storms damaged 29.2 per cent of primary health-care units and 6 of 15 basic hospitals in the country. The overload of the health sector caused by the pandemic resulted in restricted access to health care. This is exemplified by the drop-in immunization rates for children under the age of 5 and by the fact that Honduras ended 2021 with one of the lowest coverage rates of COVID-19 vaccination in Latin America and the Caribbean (48 per cent).

The ongoing crisis is also aggravating child malnutrition in all its forms. According to ENDESA/MICS, stunting affects 19 per cent of children under 5 years of age nationwide, but 33 per cent of those in the poorest households. Approximately 36 per cent of children under 5 years of age have anaemia. The prevalence of acute malnutrition reached 3.1 per cent in cities such as San Pedro Sula. The situation is expected to deteriorate due to the impact of COVID-19 and Eta/Iota. If this

situation continues to be overlooked by authorities and donors, it is estimated by HNO that 38,000 children in Honduras could suffer from acute malnutrition in 2022, with 14,000 severe cases.

The HNO 2021 shows that 33 per cent of the population in need of humanitarian assistance was affected by multiple challenges related to lack of protection, predominantly children and women, which are highly vulnerable groups. According to the Observatory of Violence of the National University, 3,800 homicides were registered in 2021 (40 per 100,000 inhabitants). From January through November, 292 women were victims of violent deaths and femicides; 8.9 per cent were girls aged 0–17 years.

This situation caused a substantial increase in migration in 2021. The National Centre of Information for the Social Sector reports that, between January and December, 54,141 Hondurans returned, an increase of 158 per cent compared with 2020. During the same period, the Directorate for Children, Adolescents and Families (DINAF) reported that 10,380 children (5,104 unaccompanied) either returned or were prevented from crossing the border, more than twice the number registered in 2020. The United States border patrol reported that the number of unaccompanied Honduran children increased from 4,776 in 2020 to 39,904 in 2021. These numbers are likely only the tip of the iceberg, as many migrants and returnees do not go through an official pathway.

Honduras has also become a transit route for migrants from other countries. The National Institute for Migration reported 17,394 immigrants, mainly from Haiti, Cuba and Nicaragua, of whom 15.9 per cent were children. Given the limited presence of the State, humanitarian actors and civil society organizations such as churches are struggling to provide essential services to migrants in transit.

The National Child Protection System (SIGADENAH), designed with UNICEF support, became law in July 2021. SIGADENAH represents the institutional framework for implementing child rights policies but requires continued national investment, advocacy and technical support to consolidate and scale up effectively.

A new government is taking office in January 2022. This represents both a challenge and an opportunity for UNICEF. UNICEF has begun advocating with the new authorities for key areas of urgent action for children and adolescents to be prioritized, such as investing in child development and reinforcing institutional capacity, return to school and learning recovery, violence prevention and mitigation, adaptation to climate change, fostering of resilience, reinforcing vaccination and systematically integrating nutrition services into routine health programmes.

Major contributions and drivers of results

In 2021, UNICEF continued adjusting its programme operations to respond to the humanitarian crisis that affected 2.8 million people in the country, including victims of the tropical storms, the pandemic, violence, migration and school closures. Using humanitarian funds, UNICEF provided access to basic health, WASH, education and protection opportunities to more than 465,000 children and 268,000 adults, most of whom face vulnerabilities and are affected by multiple emergencies and migration. A total of 3.6 million people received lifesaving COVID 19 and HIV/AIDS prevention messages.

UNICEF served as a lead agency in humanitarian clusters activated in the WASH and Education sectors, as well as the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) and the Nutrition Working Group, in coordination with key Government counterparts. In this role, UNICEF contributed to the coordination of the response, advocacy, sectoral needs updates, information management, capacity-building of sector partners, production of sector strategic plans under the HRP 2021/2022, resource mobilization and design of transitional strategies.

Even with extraordinary attention to emergency response efforts in 2021, UNICEF maintained focus on advocacy and technical support at upstream policy levels to continue consolidating key aspects of the normative framework and comprehensive system for the protection of children and adolescents in Honduras.

UNICEF Honduras contributed to raising awareness about the socioeconomic and humanitarian crisis affecting children and young people, in collaboration with MTV Latin America, presenting the documentary *We Have to Talk* about Honduras. More than 851,477 people have seen the documentary throughout Latin America. Some 23,045 adolescents and young people are currently registered as U-Reporters (53.5 per cent more than at the end of 2020). This has strengthened communication strategies with an emphasis on COVID-19.

1. Early childhood development

The Government of Honduras, with UNICEF support, consolidated the implementation of the ‘Criando con Amor’ System, which operationalizes the Early Childhood Comprehensive Care Policy. The early childhood development strategy has been implemented with exclusive government funding in 132 municipalities in the west of the country, mainly inhabited by rural and indigenous populations (Lenca-Maya), who experience the highest vulnerability rates in Honduras.

In 2021, 90,297 children under 6 years of age and 35,762 families from vulnerable indigenous regions benefited from early childhood development (ECD) programmes. Interventions included the provision of access to vaccination services for 16,824 children under the age of 5, and to prenatal care for 2,748 pregnant women. In response to emergencies, UNICEF provided 5,588 parents and caregivers with advice on infant and young child feeding and trained 1,500 families and 192 volunteers to detect acute malnutrition.

In support of the government’s humanitarian response, UNICEF provided maternal and child health care and nutrition to 127,728 children under 5 years of age and pregnant women from Lenca indigenous communities in the west of the country, as well as communities in the north affected by tropical storms and migration.

From mid-2021 UNICEF led the emergency nutrition response in Honduras, increasing visibility around child malnutrition through analysis, advocacy and communication, while also implementing nutrition, maternal and child health programmes in response to emergencies, benefiting 41,713 children under 5 years of age. Over a six-month period, UNICEF coordinated the response in 28 municipalities through seven implementing partners and obtained approval from the Ministry of Health (MoH) to implement a new simplified protocol for managing acute malnutrition in emergencies.

UNICEF coordinated teams of health and multidisciplinary personnel to support returned migrants at borders. The teams administered nutritional supplements to 25,447 children aged 6–59 months (12,570 girls) monitored with mid-upper arm circumference tape in 14 municipalities in the north of the country. Additionally, UNICEF distributed healthy snacks to 1,347 returned migrants: 1,066 children aged 6–18 (544 girls) and 281 adults (176 women).

Findings from ENDESA/MICS 2019 show an improvement in the ECD Index, based on selected developmental milestones for children aged 36–59 months – an indication of the positive impact of the Criando con Amor community system. Two departments reached by Criando con Amor achieved the highest scores in the country: La Paz (84.8 per cent) and Ocotepeque (83 per cent). The ECD Index score was also high among the Lenca indigenous population (81.8 per cent), who live primarily in the Criando con Amor intervention zone.

2. Inclusive and quality education

Due to COVID-19, schools in Honduras were closed in March 2020, with no full return to classes in 2021. The true impact of school closures on children is not yet fully understood. UNICEF worked to influence and support national education through the implementation of flexible, alternative and innovative modalities to maintain education system coverage, promote quality of learning and the inclusion of children who have been abandoned or are at risk of abandonment, impacting 331,178 children and adolescents. UNICEF impacted 1,421 schools through semi-presential activities, rehabilitation interventions and distribution of textbooks and learning materials.

The main strategies implemented were: (1) Educational Bridges, a method that provides children and adolescents with materials designed with learning recovery and remedial actions in mind, to enable them to continue learning, benefitted more than 24,000 children and adolescents in 2021, including those who are migrants, in transit, displaced by violence, affected by poverty and at risk of dropping out of school; and (2) Tutorial Learning System, an alternative and flexible modality serving adolescents, particularly in rural areas, which has high scaling potential as a public policy. In 2021, this modality allowed UNICEF to serve nearly 8,000 adolescents, enabling them to finish the school year.

In collaboration with Microsoft, UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministry of Education (MoE) to consolidate Learning Passport, an innovation that enables online and offline digital learning, bringing materials and support to the most vulnerable children. In 2021, more than 14,000 children from primary and secondary levels were formally registered in distance learning courses. In addition, new digital content on natural sciences and gender issues was made available, on Learning Passport platform allowing an estimated 90,000 students from primary and secondary levels to access age-appropriate digital learning content while schools were closed.

In collaboration with the Honduran Foundation for Corporate Social Responsibility and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID), UNICEF supported the rehabilitation of 40 schools including cleaning and disinfection of floors in classrooms, bathrooms, corridors and courtyards; painting and restoration of walls and ceilings; recovery of hydro-sanitary systems; recovery and/or restoration of electrical systems; and school furniture repairs.

In 19 municipalities in nine departments, the educational community of 120 schools improved its capacity to provide safe learning spaces and climate-resilient WASH services with a gender focus through menstrual hygiene management, emergency preparedness for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation practices, directly reaching 600 students, 600 teachers and 600 parents, and benefitting 28,499 enrolled students.

In coordination with the MoE, UNICEF promoted the provision of textbooks, educational supplies and biosafety materials to guarantee a rapid and robust response from the education sector, benefiting more than 182,000 children and adolescents in 1,421 schools.

The Education Cluster, coordinated by UNICEF, consisted of 30 partners who implemented education activities in emergencies in 105 municipalities in 15 departments, reaching more than 127,700 people, of which 55,000 were children and adolescents.

UNICEF successfully advocated with the Round Table of External Cooperation in Education (MERECE), through dialogue with government that focused on the importance of school reopening, which is expected to begin countrywide in February 2022. According to government data, in 2021 the return to classes in a blended modality was achieved in 131 public and private schools in Honduran cities, benefiting 17,388 students.

3. Protecting children from violence

Protection programme interventions focused on two dimensions: (1) strengthening child protection and

justice institutions and implementing violence prevention and response strategies, mainly in communities; and (2) providing assistance, protection and recovery support for children and their families affected by tropical storms Eta and Iota and by forced displacement. The second dimension represented a test of the local protection system in emergency situations.

SIGADENAH and DINAF were consolidated through legislative decrees. Technical assistance and training were provided to create the 110 helpline to receive reports of violence and provide counselling and psychological first aid. The National Response Plan for the Prevention of Violence against Children was approved by SIGADENAH, committing the main government institutions to implement actions to end violence.

At the municipal level, UNICEF continued to strengthen child protection in 40 municipalities through the implementation of violence prevention programmes, support to survivors, mental health services and child-friendly spaces (CFSs). These municipalities have reported almost 3,500 child protection interventions, specifically: 274 cases related to the detection, referral and care of children requiring protection services; 2,229 children and parents who received psychosocial support and positive parenting consultations; and 925 women, girls and boys who received care for gender-based violence (GBV). UNICEF strengthened the capacity of 4,461 members of SIGADENAH local councils, community protection mechanisms and frontline staff to prevent and report violence.

The Care and Management models and the National Policy Framework for Juvenile Justice were approved. With this, the Honduran juvenile justice system is at the forefront in the region, with guidelines and technical and operational tools to develop pedagogical programmes that in 2021 strengthened the life skills of 1,709 adolescents in contact with the law, with a management system to treat each adolescent.

The Cure Violence model was implemented to improve community resilience to violence and succeeded in interrupting 3,987 disputes, in 43 highly vulnerable communities, which could potentially have evolved into femicides and other serious crimes, providing support to survivors of violence and promoting behavioural change. In addition, 262,565 children, 250,382 caregivers and 4,462 community members and local authorities in 53 municipalities were equipped with knowledge of various protective measures and mechanisms, with support from Plan International and the National Foundation for Honduran Development (FUNADEH) to the Spotlight Initiative, sponsored by Canada. UNICEF promoted the creation and strengthening of 543 community-based organizations (CBOs) and youth groups to develop the peer outreach strategy aimed at strengthening leadership and promoting children's rights and gender equality. Social and behaviour change communication efforts to promote gender equality and children's rights reached more than 385,707 people. Most of these activities were conducted by adolescents.

With the support of CBOs, 93 cases of children's rights violations have been identified and referred to DINAF for prompt response through a software programme that is being tested for community-based organizations to identify, register and refer cases of violence.

In the context of humanitarian assistance, UNICEF supported 12,269 children and adolescents affected by the tropical storms to participate in CFSs and trained 304 volunteers from municipalities to quickly set up CFSs. The Child Protection AoR contributed to highlighting the ongoing violations of children's rights. Its 20 partners have provided protection responses to approximately 100,000 people (more than 50 per cent were children and adolescents) in 42 municipalities of 12 departments. A total of 103 safe and child-friendly spaces were installed to serve the most vulnerable.

UNICEF provided protection services to 42,324 children and adolescents on the move and 26,529 parents and caregivers through mental health, special protection and justice services, and supported their reintegration into their home communities. Of these, 12,194 were assisted at Returned Migrant

Reception Centres and 2,742 at border points through humanitarian assistance during irregular returns, while 27,388 were assisted in communities. Services in the community benefitted 15,892 children and adolescents who accessed health and social services, 6,809 who received support through mental health services and 10,771 who received legal assistance.

4. Social inclusion

UNICEF implemented a multipurpose humanitarian cash transfer programme, benefitting approximately 4,900 people from 1,219 families of returned migrants with children and in conditions of extreme poverty, who received US\$472 in cash per family. The programme was developed under a mixed modality that included the participation of key government institutions and the non-governmental organization (NGO) Action Against Hunger (ACH) to build a replicable model for the Honduran Social Protection System. Preliminary results show that 78.4 per cent of the beneficiary population met their nutritional needs on a weekly basis and 52.7 per cent improved the variety of foods in their diet by replacing low-nutrition products with dairy, meat and other products. At the conclusion of the intervention, the entire process is being systematized, providing elements to strengthen the Honduran Social Protection System.

The current cooperation cycle concludes with three important milestones achieved with regard to the National Child Protection System: (1) institutional consolidation with approval in Congress by legislative decree 34-2021, recognizing the importance of protecting the rights of children and adolescents in Honduras; (2) recognition of the creation of DINAF by the same legislative decree; and (3) approval of the National Policy for Children by the General Government Coordination Secretariat and the Ministry of Finance, paving the way for referral of this public policy to the Council of Ministers for promulgation.

Local governance indicators show a progressive improvement in local management capacity to integrate a child rights-based approach in 35 selected municipalities. The percentage of municipalities with high and medium-high capacity increased from 22.9 per cent in 2017 to 97.3 per cent in 2019 and 100 per cent in 2021, according to the Management Capacity Index. Similarly, the percentage of Municipal Councils with high and medium-high capacity to articulate intersectoral actions rose from 60 per cent in 2017 to 91.9 per cent in 2019 and 100 per cent in 2021, according to the Index for Municipal Councils. The governance package with which these municipalities have been trained has been transferred to DINAF, the Association of Municipalities of Honduras (AMHON) and the Global Movement for Children as replication and sustainability agents.

Additionally, the design of the Model of Incentives was completed, allowing the certification of municipalities that achieve verifiable improvements in children's rights.

Finally, the INFORM index was updated to assess the humanitarian crisis and disaster risk levels in 298 municipalities with data from the COVID-19 pandemic and tropical storms Eta and Iota. The index has been used by the government and UNICEF partners for geographic targeting of interventions, estimation of the population in need and risk-based planning.

The final 2019 ENDESA/MICS report was published in October 2021 after intense cooperation between UNICEF and the MoH. The report fills important data gaps on topics such as child and adult disability, discipline methods, victimization, quality of drinking water, disaggregation by ethnic groups and salt iodization, among others.

5. WASH in emergencies

The UNICEF WASH Sector reached a total of 123,436 beneficiaries. Of these, 64,196 received basic hygiene supplies and 99,998 accessed appropriate sanitation facilities in 32 health centres, 77 temporary shelters, 175 communities, four border points, eight migrant reception centres and 428 homes. In addition, 23,911 hygiene, water treatment, cleaning and disinfection kits for houses and

shelters were distributed.

The WASH Cluster, consisting of 25 partners in 103 municipalities across 17 departments, reached more than 700,000 people (approximately 200,000 children), continuously monitored gaps in care and early recovery, and identified damage at the community level through a prioritization matrix, facilitating informed decision-making.

UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

UNICEF actively participated in the finalization and signature of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026 and in the production of the Humanitarian Response Plan for Honduras 2021-22.

The Blueprint Initiative facilitated a collaborative approach between UNICEF and UNHCR, focused on migrant and internally displaced children. UNICEF Communications and ECD worked closely with Pan American Health Organization and the MoH to develop strategies and work plans for the COVAX initiative for vaccination against COVID-19. UNICEF also enhanced cooperation with World Food Programme through the Scaling Up Nutrition Initiative.

Early childhood development: The Directorate of Criando con Amor was UNICEF's main ECD partner. At field level, UNICEF maintains a partnership with indigenous municipal associations, COLOSUCA and Lenca Eramani. Partners include ChildFund and Special Olympics Honduras.

Nutrition: UNICEF has strengthened its relationship with the MoH on this sector. UNICEF also partnered with: Doctors of the World, Save the Children (STC), DINAF, Cortés Health Region, Lenca Eramani, COLOSUCA and ACH.

WASH: UNICEF established partnerships with Adventist Development and Relief Agency, GOAL, Pure Water for the World, Honduran Red Cross and STC. It also strengthened partnerships with local governments.

Education: The MoE and the Education Donor Table were key partners in achieving educational outcomes. Local directorates of education and local governments facilitated the coordination of interventions.

Key partners in psychosocial support included STC, the National Autonomous University of Honduras and the Pestalozzi Foundation. The partnership with Asociación Colaboración y Esfuerzo and Asociación Bayán was fundamental in reaching children and adolescents excluded from education.

Child protection: UNICEF partnered with DINAF to strengthen SIGADENAH, and with National Institute for the Care of Juvenile Offenders to reinforce the Justice System for Adolescents. On violence prevention, UNICEF partnered with Plan International, Mujeres en las Artes, Cure Violence and FUNADEH, and with the Honduran Red Cross and ChildFund to enhance CFSs.

Social inclusion: UNICEF partnered with ACH to improve the life of migrant returnees through cash transfers. Coordination with the Foreign Ministry, the General Secretariat for Government Coordination, the National Social Sector Information Centre and DINAF was essential in providing access to databases.

The partnership with AMHON was essential for the development of the incentive system for municipalities and the INFORM risk management index update.

Humanitarian work: UNICEF worked with DINAF on child protection, including the migration crisis; with the Permanent Contingency Commission of Honduras on the response to tropical storms; with the National Human Rights Commissioner on advocacy on mass deportations; with MoE on school rehabilitation; and with MoH on nutrition and maternal/child health. UNICEF strengthened partnerships across the humanitarian network (United Nations system and NGOs). Key donors were the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, Japan, ECHO, Canada and AECID.

Private Sector partnerships in areas such as manufacturing, commerce, agriculture and mobile phone operators increased the scope of actions benefitting children. Their distribution and communication channels allowed UNICEF to reach more people with messages that improved child protection and care in the context of the pandemic and promoted mass vaccination against COVID-19.

Lessons Learned and Innovations

Lessons Learned

The inclusion of actions to address humanitarian crises in existing programme strategies was a comparative advantage in responding faster and maintaining the link between the humanitarian and development intervention areas. This combination was effective in ensuring rapid action while continuing to strengthen the capacity of government counterparts and civil society, and ensuring that children's rights, public systems and services are increasingly universal and sustainable.

Proper capacity for UNICEF-led humanitarian clusters is needed to ensure effective performance in general cluster coordination and information management. The most successful cluster led by UNICEF was the WASH Cluster, staffed with the right combination of competencies from the beginning of the emergency response.

The presence of UNICEF staff at the decentralized level was key to ensuring close monitoring of the humanitarian situation and response. This contributed to the success of the early warning system, due to their direct interaction and cooperation with municipalities and communities.

Emergency response planning based on a risk/needs analysis using the INFORM platform linked to a WASH prioritization matrix allowed UNICEF to reach the most vulnerable population in an informed manner. The close collaboration between UNICEF Honduras, municipalities and communities also helped to identify and reach pockets of vulnerable populations in affected areas.

Some implementing partners from government and civil society had limited humanitarian response capacity, creating constraints for UNICEF at different levels. As part of preparedness actions, it is important to identify partners with pre-existing emergency response capacity in relevant sectors as a means of guaranteeing immediate and effective emergency responses. It is also necessary to design and implement a capacity-building plan based on the Minimum Standards for Humanitarian Response and the Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies.

UNICEF and implementing partners made information on the services delivered and feedback mechanisms available for suggestions and complaints by the affected populations. These efforts helped to improve the relevance, effectiveness and quality of the services. Accountability with affected populations cannot be an afterthought but must be an integral initial component in the design of any emergency response strategy.

Investment in prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation in emergency response activities by UNICEF and with partners proved to be a critical intervention in a country with relatively high rates of

domestic and sexual violence, with zero cases reported throughout the emergency response. All UNICEF-implementing partners ended 2021 rated as moderate/low risk regarding sexual abuse and exploitation, as a result of the introduction of normative frameworks and the implementation of training of government and NGO staff by UNICEF.

Integration between humanitarian assistance and WASH in schools allowed UNICEF to improve the WASH infrastructure in schools serving as shelters for populations affected by tropical storms Eta/Iota. Strengthening the climate-resilient WASH knowledge of local governments and technical teams is needed to ensure an efficient process and sustainability of practices.

To address malnutrition in Honduras, nutrition must be included in strategic government initiatives at the same level as, and integrated with, initiatives of other sectors such as health, education or child protection. The effective emergency response in nutrition was possible as a result of a robust community-based approach, with families and community networks at the foundation of the activities.

In a country with high rates of violence against children, and in the current context of a full return to schools in February 2022 after two years of complete school closure and increased levels of exclusion and abuse against children, it is critical to consider school as a protective space (the only one for many children), where not only learning but psychoemotional needs are addressed and attended; where there is room for community and parent cooperation and participation in the learning process; where clean water and sanitation are available; and where infrastructure is resilient to climate and natural disasters.

In the area of prevention of violence in communities, UNICEF has been developing intervention models for replication and sustainability, including emotional recovery methodologies and the implementation of Rapid Response Teams for emergency situations. These models need sustained investment, which should include creating an evidence base that demonstrates their potential to render tangible results, particularly concerning social norms and behaviour change.

In 2021, UNICEF Honduras developed its capacity to design and implement humanitarian cash transfer programmes (HCTP) through implementing partners. With adequate involvement of UNICEF programme and operations areas, it will also be capable of implementing HCTP without intermediaries, thus reducing indirect costs. To this end, in 2022, UNICEF will install the HOPE system and establish agreements with financial service providers.

The lessons and recommendations of the "Multi-country evaluation of UNICEF interventions on migration in Honduras" contributed to strengthen Honduras COM's interventions by:

- Systematically integrating gender in all COM protocols.
- Reinforcing UNICEF's intersectoral and integral work (Protection, Health, Education, M&E and Communications)
- Strengthening UNICEF's advocacy strategy on national and subnational COM public policies
- Improving coordination with national and subnational partners

Key innovations

Humanitarian Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) were implemented with partners and within UNICEF, providing flexibility when responding to sudden crises. RRTs were activated for rapid assessments and/or responses. This has led to making crises that, for various reasons, had remained low profile, visible.

The results achieved in outreach activities with CBOs and youth groups for changing social norms related to violence and GBV have been innovative and successful and will be reinforced in the coming years. The participation of these organizations in the identification and referral of cases through a software application designed for this purpose has also been innovative, and its application and linkage with the protection system will be improved in 2022.

UNICEF supported four municipalities in promoting youth participation for climate change adaptation, mitigation and climate justice, through the training of adolescents and young people on basic climate change concepts and motivating them to conduct activities that contribute to climate resilience, thus achieving awareness of the adverse impacts of climate change in their communities.

A major innovation in External Relations and Communications was the collaboration with MTV and KC Social Impact, which allowed UNICEF Honduras to reach global audiences.