

Bolivia, Plurinational State of

Update on the context and situation of children

Despite the adverse international economic repercussions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the outbreak of war in Ukraine, Bolivia has been experiencing relative economic stability. The main social indicators demonstrated that improvements in critical areas were regaining momentum. The gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 6.1% in 2021 and 4.1% in the first half of 2022[1]. The cumulative inflation rate in 2021 was 0.9%; by July 2022, it was the lowest in the region at 1.6%. However, some indicators regressed to previous years levels: GDP was equivalent to 2018, public investment in 2021 was comparable to 2012, and net international reserves declined steadily to the same levels as 16 years ago.

Bolivia made macroeconomic and fiscal efforts to protect public social spending, especially during the first stage of the pandemic. In effect, according to the latest available official information, both total social spending and spending for children remained stable as a percentage of GDP between 2019 and 2020, at 20% and 8.5%, respectively. Moreover, poverty decreased to 36.4% in 2021, compared to 39% in 2020, and extreme poverty was 11.1%, the lowest in Bolivian history. However, although social protection covered 66% of children in 2021, monetary poverty continued to affect children disproportionately, affecting 48% overall but 65% of Indigenous girls.

Bolivia delivered its first Voluntary National Review in 2021. Despite progress in most of the indicators related to children for the Sustainable Development Goals, several challenges remain, particularly those related to malnutrition, immunization, maternal mortality, access to basic sanitation, child labour, and violence against children and women. The ‘Sustainable Development Report’ published in 2022 ranked Bolivia ninetieth out of 163 countries.

Regarding children’s health, immunization rates have not yet recovered to pre-pandemic levels, though the provision of education, health and protection services has returned to normal. The COVID-19 pandemic started to slow down during the last months of 2022, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH), with 92,397 cases reported in children (8% of all cases), and only 1,183,462 children having received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccination (39% of all children aged 5–17 years) up to mid-November. COVID-19 vaccination hesitancy generated by anti-vaccination groups extended to the point of affecting the uptake of the recommended vaccination schedule for children. For instance, in the first half of 2022, the uptake rate of the third dose of the pentavalent vaccination was 67% for children under 1 year of age – 0.6 percentage points lower than in the same period in 2021 and still far from adequate to ensure community immunity. Consequently, due to the lower vaccination rates, an outbreak of whooping cough occurred in different municipalities mainly in the department of Santa Cruz, with 192 cases registered as of December 2022.

Despite the country’s efforts, violence, especially against children and women, remained an issue of grave concern. In 2021, the Attorney General’s Office reported 42 infanticides and 107 femicides. According to its latest data, as of 8 November 2022, there had been 31 infanticides and 77 femicides – the highest femicide rate in Latin America.

In addition to recurrent weaknesses in the statistical information system for geographical coverage, disaggregation by age and gender, and the limited inclusion of vulnerable groups, additional challenges were found related to the timeliness and implementation frequency of statistical operations. For example, the last Demographic and Health Survey was carried out in 2016, with no date for the next survey.

The last Population and Housing Census was in 2012, with the next one announced for March 2024, limiting the possibility of continuous and updated analysis of social indicators, including those related to children's rights. Furthermore, since the census guides political representation and budget allocations at subnational levels, the postponement led to protests, mainly in the large department of Santa Cruz. Due to the demonstrations, social services for children were temporarily interrupted; some schools were forced to return to remote education, and the provision of health and protection services became limited, especially for vulnerable groups.

The education system returned to normal in September 2022, with all students having access to in-person classes. This was significant, as only 62% of schools carried out in-person classes at the end of the 2021 school year. Data from the Ministry of Education (MoE) for 2021 show higher net enrolment rates, compared to 2020, for primary (95.8% vs 94.8%) and secondary (79.1% vs 77.8%) schools.

In 2022, the migration flow increased by 18% compared to 2021. The number of Venezuelan migrants and refugees estimated in Bolivia was 22,261, of which 8% were children. Most are in transit to southern countries such as Argentina, Chile and Paraguay, and suffer from a lack of shelter, food, nutrition, and access to primary health services and hygiene supplies. During February 2022, the flow increased considerably on Bolivia's border, where an estimated 300 people (30% children) were crossing by irregular routes to the North of Chile each day, which exposed them to altitude sickness and cold in the Altiplano, in addition to above mentioned humanitarian conditions.

Migrants with an irregular migration status had difficulties accessing essential rights, such as education, health services and work opportunities. Between August 2021 and August 2022, 4,328 people (445 minors and 3,883 adults) in Bolivia regularized their migration situation. Santa Cruz, La Paz and Cochabamba registered the highest number of applications for migrant regularization. According to official data from the National Directorate of Migration, 2,926 applications were approved in 2022, more than double the figure of 1,402 in 2021.

Regarding emergencies, a total of five were declared up to September 2022, in the departments of Santa Cruz, Beni, Tarija and Chuquisaca, due to worsening flooding, frost, drought and wildfires. A total of 195 municipalities were affected, including 206,718 families affected and 57,291 families injured (including 353,000 and 81,000 children, respectively[2]. The end of the year was marked by drought in seven departments.

[1] Unless otherwise noted, all data are from official governmental data or UNICEF, *Situation Analysis of Children in Bolivia, 2022*

[2] UNICEF's estimates based on Ministry of Defence data.

Major contributions and drivers of results

During 2022, UNICEF contributed to the continuous provision of essential health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, increased advocacy and technical support in early childhood development (ECD), and comprehensive adolescent programmes with equitable, gender-transformative and intercultural approaches.

Therefore, UNICEF sustained action towards achieving a national ECD model, catalysing the improvement of national and subnational policies, providing technical assistance to different sectors, and using the evidence provided through the implementation of local models in the priority municipalities of Independencia and El Alto. The Ministry of Justice and the Institutional Transparency and the Plurinational Legislative Assembly (ALP) moved forward with the development

of the Public Policy on Comprehensive ECD and a new Comprehensive ECD Law, which aligned with the provisions of the Economic and Social Development Plan 2021–2025 (PDES). Both documents were pending approval in late 2022.

UNICEF continued supporting access to quality and comprehensive services for young children and their families. At least 960,000 children under 5 years old, representing 68% of the estimated population in 2022, benefited from UNICEF-supported ECD services in the two priority municipalities and the improvement of national ECD programmes such as ‘Learning as a Family’, updated plans and teaching resources for pre-primary education with the MoE, and the ‘Bilingual Nests’ initiative to promote children’s early learning in their mother tongues. UNICEF also collaborated with the MoH to implement child development surveillance standards and counselling nationwide in health centres. Additionally, through applying the Care for Child Development Approach jointly developed with the Ministry of Interior, civil society organizations, private sector, children living in detention centres and children with disabilities received increased access to programmes and better care.

Through various activities, UNICEF supported the national Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in the nine Health Departmental Services (SEDES), including vaccination brigades, strengthening the cold chain (providing cold rooms, refrigerators, ultra-low-temperature freezers, and vaccine carriers) and training personnel, reaching all the health centres nationwide, in addition to supporting national communication strategies such as VacunAccion. Despite the persistent challenges to achieve EPI-recommended vaccination levels, these efforts contributed to improvements in vaccination coverage. By 2022, 1,180,000 children aged 5–17 (39% of the total) received the second COVID-19 vaccine – 858,000 more than in 2021. Likewise, around 159,000 children under 1 year (67%) received the third dose of the pentavalent vaccine, and 162,000 (68%) received the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine – a 13% increase compared to 2021.

Additionally, UNICEF responded to the rubella outbreak in Beni and the ongoing pertussis outbreak in Santa Cruz, supporting vaccination brigades and social behaviour change strategies to increase vaccination rates. In Beni, 110,568 people were vaccinated, representing 170% of the initial target of 65,184.

Strengthening maternal and neonatal health care and child nutrition services were also priorities in 2022. UNICEF supported 69 health centres with staff training and essential supplies, covering 40% of maternity wards across the country. For child nutrition, 56 new health centres were accredited as baby-friendly, an initiative encouraging exclusive breastfeeding, reaching 416 health centres during the Country Programme (CP) period. Furthermore, UNICEF contributed to developing the National Plan for the Prevention of Malnutrition and the Nutrition Response Plan for emergencies.

UNICEF supported the MoH to enhance comprehensive adolescent health services in 128 health centres in municipalities with Indigenous communities (Corea, Villa Tunari, Sud Cochabamba, San Borja and Riberalta), benefiting 144,959 adolescents (82,184 girls and 62,775 boys) with quality health services, including counselling on prevention of pregnancy, HIV and violence, reaching 73% of adolescents attended in those centres. The process comprised capacity-building, and analysis of adolescent health indicators for decision-making and service delivery. These interventions informed national norms and strategies implemented in other territories.

UNICEF WASH activities prioritized strengthening urban and rural sector models and capacities for quality and scalable service provision and promoting social norms and behaviours for better hygiene practices.

At the local level, UNICEF continued implementing an urban pilot intervention providing access to sanitation for 140 families; the initiative received financial support from the municipal governments of

Montero and Cobija, contributing to its expansion. Additionally, the Strategy for the Elimination of Open Defecation in rural communities piloted in Independencia benefited 227 families, including 570 children and adolescents in 2022 and 580 households during the CP period in 35 target communities. As a result, 25 communities were certified as open defecation free. Furthermore, based on the evidence of these models, UNICEF agreed with the Ministry of Environment and Water (MMAyA) to jointly implement the Urban and Rural Decentralized Sanitation National Plan in 2023.

UNICEF, ECHO, El Alto Municipal Government and SEDES worked together to ensure the continuity and quality of health services and improve the water and sanitation facilities at the primary health care level that serve more than one million inhabitants of El Alto. Countless inhabitants also travel several hours to the municipality due to the lack of quality rural health centres in their areas. Fifty-seven of the 58 primary health centres were renovated (one was new and did not need renovations). The repairs carried out included rehabilitation of gender-differentiated bathrooms, septic tanks, sinks in consultation rooms and water heaters in critical areas, such as the maternity ward, and installation of water tanks with hydro-pneumatic pumps to the public water network. Additionally, WASH infrastructure in 21 schools in the same municipality was rehabilitated.

Moreover, around 990 Venezuelan migrant children (495 girls and 495 boys) at border crossings and shelters received primary health care, micronutrients, complementary feeding and hygiene kits. Additionally, in Pisiga (a border crossing with Chile), UNICEF rehabilitated the health centre's WASH infrastructure in conjunction with the municipal government.

Regarding education, as children returned to schools after pandemic-related interruptions, UNICEF continued supporting national efforts to ensure access to education, improve the quality of education, and develop and implement national education plans and regulatory frameworks. For the most vulnerable populations, UNICEF focused on removing access barriers and reducing dropout risk factors.

In the priority departments of Pando, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz and La Paz, 475,709 children and adolescents (234,193 girls and 241,516 boys) received support from UNICEF and accessed educational opportunities in the regular, alternative and special educational subsystems, guaranteeing their right to better-quality education. Despite the return to school following the COVID-19 pandemic, the MoE and INE estimated that 217,000 children and adolescents remain out of school in these four departments. UNICEF continued to address access through strategies such as accelerated radio-based education in Cochabamba, an accelerated virtual secondary programme in Pando, and support to Integrated Pedagogical Centres nationwide which targeted the educational needs of adolescents in conflict with the law, and chronically ill children in hospitals. Moreover, 17,942 students (7,647 girls and 10,340 boys) with intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities and hearing impediments benefited from improved access and support guidelines. The regional curricula for 20 Indigenous communities were also harmonized with the national curricula at all educational levels.

UNICEF also addressed essential components of access to education through continued advocacy with cooperation partners, resulting in a new gender unit within the MoE which promoted the importance of preventing violence in schools and comprehensive sexuality education.

To reduce the digital gender divide and improve digital literacy in schools, UNICEF, the MoE and AGETIC equipped 20 ICT laboratories benefiting 2,844 adolescent girls and, indirectly, 49,500 adolescent girls and boys, through teacher training and the provision of educational materials.

UNICEF also successfully advocated for the MoE to become a member of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and triggered potential access to US\$2.3 million of catalytic capital that could mobilize additional funds and improve the volume, equity and efficiency of domestic financing, enabling the MoE to enhance learning delivery for the most vulnerable and build a more resilient

educational system. UNICEF was selected as the Grant Manager Agency for the GPE funds.

To improve the education system's capacity to prevent and address violence in schools, UNICEF supported institutionalized teacher training opportunities led by the Specialized Teacher Training Entity, which offered two accredited training courses for more than 25% of all teachers and authorities (22,774 women and 14,765 men) in the country: 'Promotion of peaceful and harmonious coexistence' and 'Prevent, detect and refer cases of violence to the child protection system'. These courses are expected to reach all teachers nationwide in 2023.

With UNICEF support, the Socio-Community Education Councils and student governments continued to strengthen their capacities to demand and contribute to quality educational services in 11 priority municipalities (Cobija, Puerto Gonzalo Moreno, Cercado, Chimore, Puerto Villarroel, Independencia, Villa Tunari, Shinaota, El Alto, Riberalta and San Borja). Some 541 parent boards (3,272 parents) and 384 student councils (3,310 students) strengthened their organizations by incorporating gender parity, opening intergenerational dialogues on topics of adolescents' interest, and establishing improved ways to construct peaceful environments.

To ensure children's access to education during emergencies, UNICEF distributed 1,862 backpacks with school supplies, 160 recreational kits for psychosocial support and 8 emergency kits for school units. Moreover, a total of 14,735 children and adolescents (7,141 girls and 7,549 boys), 1,821 teachers (995 women and 826 men) and 220 district administrators (118 women and 102 men) in 476 of the most vulnerable schools from 7 districts in El Chaco region improved their emergency preparedness and response capacities through training sessions on contingency plans, including evacuation drills and biosecurity measures.

Furthermore, to increase migrant students' access to the Bolivian education system at the appropriate level, UNICEF supported the Andrés Bello Convention to disseminate equivalency tables to education authorities and simplified administrative measures to facilitate migrant student enrolment.

Regarding child protection, UNICEF continued to strengthen the capacities of the national and subnational systems, improve parenting skills to promote caring environments for children, and expand the Safe Family helpline while contributing to changing social norms that reinforce gender-based violence.

UNICEF, jointly with the Attorney General's Office, Supreme Court of Justice and Federation of Municipal Associations (FAM Bolivia), contributed to expanding the capacity of 5,113 frontline workers (2,076 women and 3,037 men) to provide protection services adapted to children and adolescents' needs in 302 municipalities (88% of the total).

Over 3,188 children (1,655 girls and 1,533 boys), including migrant children, those at risk of child labour, exploitation and separation, neglect and violence, survivors of violence, and their families, benefited from access to relevant services through UNICEF and its partners' support.

Bolivia continued its progress to ensure children's right to live in a family. With UNICEF support, 483 children living in residential care were reunified with their families or adopted in 2022, and 90 children benefited from being placed in foster care instead of entering a care home. UNICEF monitoring estimates that the number of children in residential care in Bolivia decreased by 17% since 2019.

UNICEF continued to enhance its work at the community level to support existing state structures such as Indigenous community promoters and child protection committees and scale up interventions such as child-friendly markets. Consequently, 221,032 people, including 88,854 children and adolescents (45,538 girls and 45,316 boys), increased their knowledge and capacity to prevent,

identify and report violence.

The Safe Family free helpline continued to provide psychosocial support to people of all ages. In 2022, the helpline received 37,566 calls, 33% from children and adolescents. During the three years of this initiative, UNICEF continued to connect the helpline with 16 municipal services, including those in the capital city and municipalities that contain over 54% of the country's population. Child protection services, including 420 prosecution officers (70% of the total), were also trained to ensure that cases referred through the helpline were efficiently assisted.

UNICEF also continued expanding national and subnational capacities for planning and budgeting with a child focus and ensuring children's participation. Efforts in 2022 included supporting medium-term planning processes utilizing the 'Plan with a Child-Focused Toolkit', which considers children's participation and is aligned with the regulatory provisions of the PDES. Thus, UNICEF assisted in the development of the Territorial Plans for Comprehensive Development in seven municipalities (Riberalta, San Borja, Montero, Shinaota, Villa Tunari, Puerto Villaroel and Chimore) and Pando department, and the development of the 2022 municipal plans for children in five of these territories. The planning tools enhanced with UNICEF support were disseminated through FAM Bolivia to the country's municipal association for their adoption. As a result, 89% of municipalities strengthened their child-focused planning and budgeting capacities during the CP cycle.

In 2022, UNICEF also reactivated its collaboration with ALP through an agreement with the Chamber of Senators, which is an instrument that contributes to advancing regulations to protect children's rights. A technical roundtable with five commissions worked on proposed legal projects, prioritizing ECD; private sector involvement in financing public policies for children; analysis of public budgets for children; the right to live in a family; and child protection from violence.

Regarding the climate change agenda, UNICEF supported the MoE and MMAyA to include climate change and risk management content in the curricula of all levels of the education system. UNICEF also contributed to pilot the Resilient Schools Model, which includes improved infrastructure (solar panels, eco-friendly water systems and school gardens) and enhanced curricular programmes in 39 schools in the 10 most vulnerable municipalities of the country. Approximately 7,500 children, 370 teachers and 640 members of educational communities benefited from this strategy. The model, highly valued by the MoE, provides opportunities to enhance the National Socio-Educational Model in vulnerable communities.

In 2022, with UNICEF support, 36 child and youth organizations contributed to consolidating the national climate justice agenda based on the principles of intergenerational climate justice, which was presented by youth members of the country's official delegation at the Conference of the Parties (COP) 27, the Regional Conference of Youth and the Conference of Youth 17. Additionally, about 534 young people (342 girls and 192 boys) participated in project competitions that sought solutions, entrepreneurship initiatives and innovations for climate change adaptation and mitigation, organized in the Chaco, Amazon and vulnerable highland regions.

Concerning programme and operational effectiveness, in 2022 the Country Office (CO) surpassed its resource mobilization goals, reaching US\$12.29 million, 75% above the US\$7 million target. The CO also achieved significant milestones in individual giving; it was the first frontier market to reach more than 10,000 active individual pledge donors. The National Committees for UNICEF became the most important source of income, contributing US\$2.89 million in 2022. The Government of Japan contributed US\$3 million to immunization cold-chain system strengthening, becoming a key partner of UNICEF Bolivia.

The CO's evaluation function was strengthened by evaluating two decentralized programmatic interventions – an Integrated ECD Model and an Urban Decentralized Sanitation Model – and

participating in two multi-country real-time assessments led by the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO) in Gran Chaco and the COVID-19 response. Evidence generation for strategic planning and informing the new CPD was also reinforced through complementary exercises, a gender programmatic review and a new humanitarian and development performance monitoring exercise based on third-party monitoring.

To act on the priorities established by the results of the global staff survey, the CO developed a participatory annual plan to improve workplace culture, including teamwork-building activities and hiring experts to analyse hybrid work and workloads.

UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

UNICEF worked strategically with government institutions at the national and subnational levels, civil society organizations, municipal mechanisms, private sector and other United Nations agencies using different partnership modalities.

Strategic planning for the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and the new CP for 2023–2027 was at the centre of programmatic efforts in 2022. Both documents were elaborated in parallel with the Government of Bolivia, and through consultative processes with national and subnational authorities, donors, civil society, private sector, and adolescents and youth. UNICEF led the working group to define priorities related to equity and well-being, including health, education, child protection and social inclusion.

UNICEF worked closely with the Pan American Health Organization to strengthen COVID-19 and regular programme vaccinations, and the development and co-financing of a graduate immunization training programme with Universidad Mayor de San Andres. This collaboration included joint fundraising with the MoH – successfully securing more than US\$6 million from Gavi Middle-Income Country and Gavi–Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funds – and coordinated action with the MoH for social behaviour change. These communication efforts also mobilized subnational authorities, private sector companies, media and influencers.

The Global Transformative Education Summit was at the centre of the education agenda throughout 2022. Close coordination between the Office of the Resident Coordinator, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP and the MoE guaranteed smooth consultation processes with teachers, students, parents, indigenous groups, and the private sector, among others. As a result, the Bolivian government made commitments to recover and improve learning, strengthen the conditions for educational quality and reinforce education within social activities.

At the request of the Ministry of Planning, UNICEF worked with UNFPA, UN Women and UNDP to design a strategy to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in Bolivia which involved several ministries and non-state actors, especially highlighting the role of the media and communication efforts to change behaviours across society.

UNICEF worked closely with FAM Bolivia on the Law on Autonomy and Decentralization at municipal and local levels. The convening capacity through the nine Departmental Municipal Associations, the Association of Municipalities of Bolivia and the Association of Councilwomen and Mayors of Bolivia also allowed UNICEF to expand its geographical reach nationwide for critical interventions.

To ensure migrant families received better access to services, UNICEF worked with the International Organization for Migration and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to scale up programmes at the borders, promote mental health and violence prevention programmes, and advocate for legislative reforms, allowing migrants to regularize their status in Bolivia.

UNICEF sought to scale up its work with the private sector to transfer capacities and tools to business associations that were strategic partners. In the medium term, it was expected that the business associations would directly promote the family-friendly workplace practices (FFWP) agenda and make it sustainable by incorporating it into their range of services for their member companies. With these actions, UNICEF influenced companies to incorporate the best interests of children into their operations.

Lessons Learned and Innovations

The communication and social behaviour change strategies continue to prove effective for enhancing programmatic results. The use of technology, social networks and digital platforms made it possible to disseminate messages for the prevention of violence and teenage pregnancy, the construction of new masculinities and the promotion of early learning and stimulation, among others. Partners at the community level played an essential role in these strategies, while the participation of Indigenous adolescent leaders trained as ‘community reporters’ helped to continue strengthening these positive actions to ensure the fulfilment of the rights of Bolivian children and adolescents. These actions, combining key messages and community participation, incorporating the socio-cultural beliefs and perceptions of the population, were disseminated through social networks and local radio stations.

The generation of evidence through the U-Report platform allowed new partnerships and joint work with diverse state institutions, United Nations agencies and social organizations to amplify the voice of adolescents on different issues. U-Report is a robust participation and advocacy tool, mobilizing over 7,000 adolescent and youth reporters on issues such as disability, mental health, access to technology, education and health. It was a strong mechanism for consultation and dialogue with children and adolescents, including migrants, that continues to inform programmatic decisions and advocacy activities.

COVID-19 and economic, social and political challenges continue to challenge programme implementation. In this context, distance learning and self-paced training for capacity-building of frontline workers remained an asset in 2022 for all programme areas, allowing UNICEF to reach more participants from isolated rural areas, increase the number of training sessions available, and adapt learning options to the needs of the audience based on evaluation activities and satisfaction surveys. The real-time assessment of UNICEF’s response in the Gran Chaco also highlighted the cost-effectiveness of switching to a virtual modality for continued education during the pandemic.

Despite challenges in managing and utilizing statistical information to inform social programmes, UNICEF drove progress and created opportunities to generate relevant and useful information and data. For example, to improve the quality of education within the Bolivian education system, UNICEF supported the Plurinational Observatory for Educational Quality to develop a diagnostic evaluation of primary education in 2021, which highlights the importance of quality education in the national ‘Education First’ sectoral plan that aligns with the priorities established in the PDES, and an education monitoring and tracking system that will contribute to the decision-making process of education authorities and guarantee that policy decisions are based on evidence. Also, to assess and highlight the social impact of COVID-19 on children, UNICEF supported a multidimensional child poverty estimation study in partnership with the ARU Foundation. The methodology and results were revised by the Unit for Analysis of Social and Economic Policies and the Ministry of Development Planning, and it was agreed to combine efforts to enhance the methodology for official estimations.

Multi-level coordination was important to scale up and expand local interventions throughout the different programme areas. For example, UNICEF supported the MoE in the development of the ‘Learning as a Family’ Programme; however, long-term implementation of the programme was coordinated with departmental and district education directorates. This made it easier for teachers to participate in the training processes and plan these training sessions with families, as they received strong support and motivation from the authorities.

Sharing the progress and results of UNICEF interventions continued to garner interest and grow support among donors and the private and public sectors. For example, the results of the Resilient Schools Model, an initiative that provides practical and local solutions to reduce the impact of climate change in schools and communities, were highlighted in the real-time assessment of the UNICEF

response in the Gran Chaco. This generated significant interest among donors, who increased their support to the initiative, ensuring its future scale-up and expanded coverage. It is important to accurately continue systematizing and assessing challenges, progress and results related to this strategy to continue increasing support for scalability in collaboration with the MoE.

Collaborations and partnerships remained key enablers of the CP. The CO implemented a solid Business for Results strategy, focusing on FFWP and consolidating important partnerships with chambers of commerce, allowing the CO to leverage programmatic results. For example, UNICEF innovatively incorporated the issue of well-being and mental health care in the workplace and was the first UNICEF CO in the region to develop and test a methodology to work with the private sector on this issue. Moreover, a digital platform was created with tools for the business sector, with 38 businesses committing to using it to increase employees' knowledge of family-friendly practices, benefiting 1,168 families. This valuable synergy was not common in Bolivia. As a result of the partnership between the chambers of commerce and UNICEF, 17 companies participated in the pilot programme and were recognized for their commitment to continue implementing this initiative.

Though seeking the Edge green building certification, UNICEF Bolivia also aimed to become an example of an eco-efficient office in the United Nations System and among other organizations in Bolivia. Carrying out the certification process reflected the CO's significant efforts and will serve as motivation for other United Nations agencies and private sector companies collaborating with UNICEF.