

Guatemala

Update on the context and situation of children

2022 was the third year of Guatemala's current political administration. On January 2023, the electoral process to elect President, Congress and Mayors officially started. Elections will be held on June 25, and presidential runoff is planned for August 27. New administration will be sworn in in January 2024.

Interannual general inflation in Guatemala reached 9.24% (December 2022), the highest figure since December 2008. The Basic Food Basket reached GTQ 3,634 in December, 17% higher than December 2021. Guatemala registered a 4% economic growth in 2022, a 50% deceleration with respect to 2021.

2023 National Budget is worth GTQ 115,444 million, 2% more than 2022 budget. Low tax revenue (10% of GDP) limits the Government's ability to scale up the coverage of key social services for children and the population in general.

Guatemala's children experience multiple, overlapping deprivations, especially indigenous children.

Vaccination of children against COVID-19 is still low: according to the Ministry of Health, MoH, as December 2022, only 39.4% of girls and boys between 6 and 11 years old have been vaccinated against COVID-19, and only 18.2% of them have two doses. There are still 1.8 million girls and boys to be vaccinated.

Routine vaccination coverage has not reached the pre pandemic levels yet. UNICEF, with support from Japan, contributed to improving the quantity and quality of the cold chain equipment -for COVID-19 and routine vaccination- in 381 Health Centres in all the 29 Health regional Areas of the country, and trained 754 health workers and technical staff on cold chain. In total, 32,513 children in Guatemala did not receive a single vaccine shot in 2022, leaving these zero dose children vulnerable to deadly preventable diseases. The coverage of DTP1 vaccines was 90.57% and of DTP3 was 78.46%.

Education. Limited access to education for young children and adolescents continued to be a challenge. The pandemic unveiled poor access, connectivity and IT equipment, low digital skills, and lack of specific strategies for the most disadvantaged children. Tropical storms exposed the fragility of school infrastructure, including in terms of WASH facilities. Current sector investment is insufficient for universal access, completion and improved learning outcomes.

UNICEF supported the expansion of the national ECD program by strengthening the legal framework and advocating for financial sustainability of the early childhood community model. Over 1,000 ECD spaces became functional supporting the expansion of community-based, inclusive, and culturally pertinent modalities for ECD.

Registered cases of acute malnutrition decreased slightly. According to the National Nutrition Secretariat, following the 2020 increase in the number of registered cases of acute malnutrition in children under five (up from 15,547 in 2019 to 26,959 in 2020), a reduction was observed in 2022 when 22,416 cases were registered. However, the cases are still higher than those recorded in 2019

Stunting remained high, with 46.0 per cent of children at national level identified as stunted in 2022, and 57.2 per cent identified as stunted in the municipalities that have been prioritized by the National Great Crusade for Nutrition (GCNN).

Maternal and child mortality continued as a significant public health problem in Guatemala, with a

Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) of 113 per 100,000 live births at national level in 2018 and an Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of 28 per 1,000 live births in 2015.

Violence against children is characterized by high rates of impunity and lack of access to protection services. National socio-economic context is pushing many children and adolescents out of school into the informal labor market. Children are exposed to high rates of violence and exploitation, with the Ministry of Health reported 3,254 cases of sexual violence among children and adolescents (2,926 girls and 328 boys), which represent the 72% of total cases registered in the country. In addition, the health system registered 2,273 pregnancies among girls aged between 10 to 14, which means 219 pregnancies for every 10,000 girls in this age group.

60,789 unaccompanied Guatemalan **children on the move** were detected at the southern border of the United States in US fiscal year 2022, a daily average of 167. The Guatemalan Migration Institute registered 88,287 returnees from Mexico and the US from January to November 2022, 18% of which (16,413) are children.

Social policy and social protection. UNICEF, together with UNDP and WFP and as part of the support to SESAN in the framework of the Joint Programme Strengthening the financial architecture for the financing of the GCNN, finalized the multisectoral costing tool of the GCNN. The importance of this costing exercise was reflected in a budget increase of USD 60.6 million for the GCNN in the approved budget for 2023. UNICEF, continued to strengthen capacities and provide technical tools to local governments to increase public spending on children and adolescents. Municipal public finances diagnostics were carried out with information about the performance of municipal management and planning. UNICEF continue providing technical assistance in partnership with the World Bank to MIDES to strengthen the Bono Social programme in terms of its administration and the management information system.

Regarding policy development, UNICEF supported the updating of the Public Policy for the Comprehensive Development of Early Childhood and kept on strengthening local governments capacities to prioritize and increase local public spending on children and adolescents. UNICEF is also frontline in the development of the new National WASH Policy and, together with other UN Agencies, is providing technical assistance to the drafting of a national policy on migration. **On legal reforms,** UNICEF kept on advocating for the approval of the Law of Specialized Services for children and adolescents' victims of violence, in coordination with civil society organizations.

Guatemala's vulnerability to climate change and disasters is still high. On one hand, the country ranked #54 in the children's climate risk index, on the other, the INFORM (Index for Risk Management) update carried out by the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) revealed a worsening in the country's vulnerability to disaster from a 4.4 score (2017) to 6.26 (2022).

Major contributions and drivers of results

UNICEF partnered with government and civil society to deliver results at scale for children, including children on the move in the areas of (i) health and nutrition; (ii) education; (iii) child protection; (iv) WASH and climate resilience; (v) social policy and social protection.

Health and nutrition

UNICEF developed a costed model for the Strategy of “**Integrated Nutrition and Health Brigades**”, which are outreach teams that reach remote areas of the country where the most vulnerable populations live. The costing exercise was approved and used by the MoH to assign, for the first time, a budget of 50 million GTQ to make the strategy operative in 2023. UNICEF supported the training and

implementation of 10 brigades, which provided nutrition and health services to 11,722 children under five and 4,174 reproductive-age women in 127 communities of five departments of the country. Brigades identified 230 children under five with acute malnutrition (43 with severe acute malnutrition), all of which received adequate treatment. The brigades reached 4,005 children with multiple micronutrient powder supplementation and 398 children with Vitamin A to cover a period of 6 months, 2179 children with Zinc, to cover 3 months, 3232 children with deworming tablets to cover 6 months and 2477 children with vaccines (polio, pentavalent, DPT). Given the stock out of COVID-19 vaccines that took place nationwide at the end of the year, only 198 people from rural communities received this vaccine. In addition, 299 women received other vaccines, 1,181 women received iron supplementation and 1,435 women received folic acid. In addition, 38,314 counseling activities on nutrition, health and hygiene took place.

UNICEF supported the development of guidelines for the care of children with acute malnutrition at community level and led the nutrition cluster, supporting the development of Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

UNICEF supported the implementation of the initiative of **breastfeeding** friendly services, as well as the strategy of breastfeeding-promoting community birth attendants, reaching 1,299 birth attendants in 17 municipalities. 9,330 health workers were trained on breastfeeding. UNICEF supported MoH with the development of a National Breastfeeding Plan as well as Ministry of Work to certify eight breastfeeding-friendly spaces in private or public sector entities.

To support the implementation of the National Strategy for Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) of the GCNN, UNICEF supported the development of guidelines for the health and nutrition pillars. UNICEF also supported the review of the prioritised 115 Municipal-level SBCC plans and provided support to capacity strengthening activities at municipal level, through the Municipal Commissions of Food Security and Nutrition (COMUSAN). UNICEF also supported the implementation of a community-level monitoring system that is currently collecting information in 82 communities. In addition, UNICEF trained 1,009 community leaders on nutrition and health, strengthened the capacity of 26 community radios and recorded 258 radio spots in local languages and 170 messages for Rapid Pro (Corazon Contento). In total, UNICEF reached 11,476 women through Corazon Contento, and 31,500 people through the radio spots.

Together with MoE, UNICEF strengthened the capacities of 754 health workers and technical staff to manage cold chain equipment and deliver **COVID-19 and routine vaccines**, through in-person and virtual trainings and visits. UNICEF procured 2,000 vaccine carriers, 100 solar refrigerators, 2,000 icepacks, 400 cold boxes, 300 electric freezers and 118 dual refrigerator/freezer equipment. UNICEF contributed to improving the quantity and quality of the cold chain in 381 health centers and provided technical assistance to the Logistics Management Unit from MoH, through the development of a cold chain inventory and calculation tool. Lastly, UNICEF provided technical assistance to MoH to develop a technical review of COVID-19 and routine vaccination coverages and to propose solutions to increase vaccination coverage.

To increase vaccine uptake, UNICEF assisted MoH in the development and implementation of a community participation methodology. MoH selected 80 communities of the 25 municipalities with the lowest COVID-19 coverage. Firstly, UNICEF supported communities to rebuild their health history, and secondly to develop a participatory diagnosis of the community's health.

UNICEF provided assistance to MoH for the development of (i) a protocol for the prevention of suicidal risk among children, adolescents and youth, (ii) a protocol for mental health care for children, adolescents and youth and (iii) an institutional policy of **mental health**. UNICEF supported the development and implementation of a mental health campaign for adolescents, which reached more than 3 million people, as well as the creation of a Chatbot on mental health issues affecting adolescents

and youth. UNICEF also reached 800 adolescents and youth through a U-Report survey on quality of mental health services.

To allow adolescent indigenous populations in rural areas to access quality and **culturally-sensitive health services**, UNICEF supported MoH with the development of a translation tool that allows adolescents of Alta Verapaz to receive health care in their own language (Q'eqch'í and Poqomch'í), within the framework of the National Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Plan (PLAN). In addition, UNICEF supported the implementation of a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) study in a department where the number of adolescent pregnancies is very high, so that authorities can prepare a tailored approach to pregnancy prevention.

UNICEF is currently supporting MoH with the development of a Communication Campaign for the Prevention of HIV among adolescents.

Education

As the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) administrative agency in Guatemala, UNICEF has been instrumental for the development of the updated **Education Sector Plan**, which aims at achieving SDG4 with an inclusive and equitable approach.

UNICEF fostered community mobilization, increasing local capacity and supporting local partners. **Strengthening of EMIS** made relevant information available to EiE Cluster members during emergencies. Advocacy to reduce economic and social barriers, promote healthy practices and prevent VAC was effective for children's wellbeing, as ESP included specific interventions.

ESP system strengthening strategies included the systematic collection and analysis of data for evidence-based decisions and policymaking in education. UNICEF's advocacy promoted the implementation of academic support programmes, tutoring and social, emotional, and mental health of students and teachers, as well as teacher training and development, and revised curriculum.

UNICEF led the EiE cluster and supported **safe school return plan implementation**, developed material, framework and protocols, repaired school, strengthen School Management Committees, and establish partnership with private sector, civil society, and municipalities. UNICEF promoted trauma informed care (TIC) for socio-emotional support to children through training aimed to increase teachers, parents and community leaders' competencies to address adverse childhood experiences. UNICEF encouraged cross-sectoral coordination and partnerships for a comprehensive ECD and ADAP programs and gained endorsement from the teachers' union. To address disaster risk reduction, UNICEF introduced the use of a tool for the periodic assessment of WASH infrastructure in schools and trained the SMC in preparation for the adverse impacts of natural hazards by strengthening the school emergency committees and protocols.

UNICEF supported the **repairing of 190 schools** that were seriously damaged after the tropical storms that hit the country, including WASH facilities, allowing over 250,000 students returning to school.

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UNICEF continued to promote partnerships and cross-sectoral actions to increase access to **ECD** programs, which included prevention of malnutrition; promotion of breastfeeding; WASH; food safety and nutrition as well as successful educational pathways. Social and behavior change actions were implemented, and community participation increased, with special emphasis on women. UNICEF designed playful material to promote adequate nutrition and healthy practices among students.

UNICEF supported the expansion of the national ECD program by strengthening the legal framework and advocating for financial sustainability of the early childhood community model. 1,142 ECD spaces are currently functioning, attending 36,122 children.

UNICEF supported the expansion of **non-formal education** programs and established 79 hubs, enabling the school reinsertion of 2,238 adolescents.

Literacy recovery pilot reached 466 primary students in remote areas. UNICEF designed materials, printed teachers guidelines, strengthened MoE capacities, systematized good practices for in-service teachers and carried out radio campaigns.

Child protection

UNICEF kept on supporting the **decentralization and strengthening of child protection systems at the municipal and community levels**, contributing to the creation of 18 new municipal child protection offices, allowing to reach 173 out of 334 municipalities in the country (over 50%). Additionally, violence prevention plans were developed in 299 communities.

During 2022, 478 children and adolescent victims of sexual violence and their family received **psychosocial support**; 4,340 children and their families accessed to secondary prevention activities. 59,590 people benefitted from primary **sexual violence prevention** interventions through local media. UNICEF also contributed to the capacity strengthening of 710 public officials, as well as the participatory construction of intervention tools targeting child and adolescent victims of violence.

As part of the SBC strategy, more than 62 community radio stations were reached, creating a network of communicators and reaching more than three million people.

More than 1,500 justice operators, prosecutors and police officers received training and capacity building on **specialized justice for girls, boys and adolescents** victims of crimes and adolescents in conflict with the law, in partnership with the Judicial and National Police Academies.

In collaboration with UNHCR and IOM, in 2022 UNICEF contributed to the establishment of 2 new Care Centers for Migrants and Refugees (CAPMIR) in Esquipulas and Izabal which provide information services, humanitarian assistance, legal attention, access to protection systems and information on regular channels for migration to children and adults on the move.

UNICEF provided **humanitarian assistance** and psychosocial care to approximately 30,000 children and adults on the move. Among them, 13,020 children and 9,271 adult caregivers in transit; as well as 7,494 returned Guatemalan children.

Additional 19,137 people received information related to **migration** services and prevention of sexual and gender violence. 264,928 people accessed social networks and obtained information about prevention against sexual violence and human trafficking.

4,369 government officials were trained on child rights, migration-related risks and the psychosocial care of children and adolescents on the move.

UNICEF supported the Secretariat for Social Welfare (SBS) to manage 7,494 new cases in the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS+ Primero) through the training of 108 public servants.

WASH and climate resilience

UNICEF reached 327 communities and 149,214 people, including 34,656 boys y 33,168 girls, with the implementation of the Sustainable Total Sanitation and Hygiene (SAHTOSO) methodology, which has been officially adopted by MoH. The certified communities now have a **basic sanitation system**, better water quality, and improved hygienic conditions in every household. Tamahú was the first municipality in Guatemala to become an Open Defecation Free municipality, with 100% of sanitation coverage in rural areas.

UNICEF provided technical assistance to MoH for the development and dissemination of the SAHTOSO Implementation Guidelines, which place emphasis on the participation of women in SAHTOSO committees.

In collaboration with SIWI, UNICEF supported the development of the new National WASH Policy, and supported the development of a diagnostic workshop, a WASH bottleneck analysis tool (WASH BAT) workshop, and several technical workshops. The process involved numerous stakeholders, including government counterparts, UN agencies, civil society, academia and private sector.

UNICEF supported the Presidential Commission of Municipal Affairs (COPRESAM) to create and strengthen municipal WASH offices (OMAS) with the aim of improving WASH planning processes at the local level. Specifically, UNICEF supported the development and implementation of a WASH diagnostic tool in 22 prioritized municipalities and strengthened the capacity of governmental staff working within the OMAS to improve management services.

As part of the country humanitarian team, UNICEF led the WASH cluster and supported the development of Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), which served as a basis to define the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). In addition, UNICEF supported the Government of Guatemala with the response to the tropical cyclone Julia, through the procurement of 820 water filters y 268 hygiene kits.

In December 2022, CONRED and UNICEF signed a General Agreement of Cooperation and Understanding, to protect and promote the rights of children, adolescents and youth and their care and integration in **disaster risk reduction** management contexts. The Agreement included institutional capacity building through the creation of municipal, sectoral and institutional planning, as well as the coordination of comprehensive disaster risk reduction management measures in development processes and updating of care protocols based on the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCC's).

UNICEF supported CONRED in updating the Guatemala Risk Management Index (INFORM-GT) at the subnational level to characterize the aspects of hazard/exposure, vulnerability and lack of capacity to respond to adverse events. This tool is based on 35 indicators whose information is derived from official and open sources and provides risk assessment at the municipal level and can be used to facilitate decision making on disaster risks reduction.

UNICEF continued consolidating the **Business and Community Resilience** (BCR) initiative both at the national and municipal levels. Two BCR landscape analyses were developed with the objective of understanding the capacity experience of the private sector to support emergency preparedness and response activities and to strengthen community resilience. In addition, UNICEF implemented three co-creation events to strengthen the engagement with the private sector.

UNICEF supported young leaders in the country to organize the first **Youth Summit on Climate Change** (LCOY Guatemala) in October 2022, which is part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Social policy and social protection

Together with UN partners, UNICEF finalized the costing tool for 48 interventions of the GCNN identifying a gap of Q8,489.1 million (USD\$ 1,084.9 million) representing 1.2% of GDP. Evidence-based advocacy efforts resulted in the mobilization of almost US\$60.6 million in the 2023 national budget.

UNICEF finalized the pilot exercise of the **gender-sensitive social household registry**, which was carried out in 7 municipalities in 5 departments, identifying 19,714 households. UNICEF and the World Bank assisted MIDES in determining the functional requirements of the management information system of Bono Social (SIBS) and conducted a study to identify innovations and lessons learned from the implementation of Bono Familia as a means to strengthening the **social protection system**.

UNICEF continued to strengthen local governments' capacities to improve **planning and budget management in 22 municipalities** to increase public spending on children; 68.2% progress has been made in the preparation of diagnoses of municipal public finances; 45.5% in the preparation of improvement plans and 9.1% in the implementation of these plans.

Cross-sectoral approaches

UNICEF work on **social and behavior change** focused on, among others, de-normalizing violence against children, increasing immunization rates (both routine and COVID-19-related); improving WASH practices at the community level, increasing the number of children attending ECD centers.

Cross-sectoral efforts linked to COVID-19 recovery focused on safeguarding essential health and nutrition services; advocating for safe return to schools and learning recuperation; improving WASH services in schools, health facilities and households; providing psychosocial support and protection to children and adolescents, as well as engaging in high-level dialogue with government on recovery strategies.

Mapping UNICEF interventions at the municipal level was key to strengthening cross-sectoral coordination.

UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

UNICEF is the lead Agency of the UNSDCF Result Group on Social Development.

The joint programme on the Financial Architecture of GCNN, implemented together with UNDP and WFP successfully came to an end in 2022, when UNICEF also joined to additional Sweden-funded on WASH and nutrition Joint Programme together with FAO, PAHO and UNDP.

On health and nutrition, UNICEF kept on collaborating with WFP and PAHO.

Collaboration with UNESCO and the RCO was key in ensuring a successful participation of the Government of Guatemala in the Transforming Education Summit.

On children on the move, collaboration with IOM and UNHCR has been strengthened, with special emphasis on the complementary work implemented in the 4 CAPMIRs established in Guatemala.

In terms of emergency preparedness and response, collaboration with OCHA and the UN agencies that make up the Humanitarian Country Team in the sectors of Education; Nutrition; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; and the Child Protection area of responsibility, has been key to developing the HNO and HRP.

World Bank has been a valued partner in relation to social protection.

UNICEF keeps on acting as the lead agency for Common Premises, currently accommodating UNICEF, UNODC, UNWOMEN, UNCHR and WFP.

Public partnerships with GPE, EU, Canada, Japan, Sweden and the US government were consolidated in 2022, allowing for the implementation of UNICEF programmes in areas such as education, health, nutrition and child protection, as well as for the response to the mixed migration flows through and from Guatemala.

UNICEF developed a private sector engagement plan to advocate for the implementation throughout the child rights and business agenda and secure new partnership with private sector stakeholders in the country. As part of the engagement plan, UNICEF participated in the SDG Forum organized by CentraRSE to promote CRB agenda and developed workshops with Global Compact companies and private chambers as CACIF, resulting in the engagement of 42 private stakeholders.

UNICEF Guatemala recorded a growth in individual pledge giving. Attraction strategies focused on digital channels and telemarketing (which resulted in 218 new pledges) as well as F2F campaigns (387 new pledges).

Lessons Learned and Innovations

Lessons learned:

- The model of integrated brigades is an important achievement that will benefit the population. MoH has now assigned funding for these brigades for 2023.
- Weak electrical connectivity still hampers the expansion of immunization services to the rural and most remote areas of the country, where the vulnerable populations live. To overcome this problem, UNICEF supported MoH to procure electric generators so that electrical cold chain equipment can be properly powered, as well as solar cold chain equipment, which doesn't require any

electrical connections.

- Massive immunization communication campaigns did not have the expected impact on increasing the population's interest to get vaccinated against COVID-19. As a result, UNICEF and AVANCSO supported MoH with the development and implementation of a community participation methodology that allows health workers and community members to interact and share their concerns on vaccination and other health issues.

- The wide recognition and legitimacy that UNICEF Guatemala has in the country served to participate in the strategic promotion of vaccination against COVID-19.

- UNICEF's adaptive capacity facilitated interventions to support the deployment of the COVID-19 vaccine in the country.

- It is necessary to maximize the agility of the procurement processes for equipment and supplies to counteract delays and bottlenecks in global supply chains outside of UNICEF.

- UNICEF's advocacy and assistance were key to come up with an updated, equity-based Education Sector Plan, which places adequate emphasis on strengthening ECD and non-formal education programmes.

- Having a dedicated WASH Specialist in the Education team has been key in moving the WASH in Schools at the ministry and local levels. Strengthening national institutions' commitment to the integrated response to children and adults on the move based on CAPIMRs will be key in accelerating scale-up and improve sustainability

- Rigorous analytical studies are an invaluable instrument to influence public policy and budget decisions, both at the national and the local levels.

- Lessons learned from the evaluation of the UNICEF response to ETA and IOTA in Guatemala
 - o Choosing sound partners and building on existing community processes is important to ensure the continuity of interventions as well as ensuring that these processes are strengthened rather than interrupted by humanitarian interventions.

- o Working in partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Education Cluster, the municipalities, and the participation of the communities and the steering committees of the schools, as well as the parents' associations, is a recipe to ensure that the activities are successful and sustainable.

- o Although UNICEF has access to finance the installation of temporary education modules after an emergency, their installation may not be the best option and it is important to consult with the community to investigate if there are more suitable and sustainable alternatives.

Innovations:

- Integrated health and nutrition brigades represent a successful programmatic innovation to bring primary prevention services closer to the most remote communities. Roving brigades made up by nurses and community outreach personnel who spoke local languages travel to hard-to-reach areas of the country providing immunization, weight and height monitoring, micronutrient and vitamins supplementation, as well as advice on nutrition, health and hygiene.

- UNICEF-supported ECD centers (Centros Comunitarios de Desarrollo Infantil Integral - CECODII) provide children aged 0 to 4 years with holistic interventions on early learning, health, nutrition and protection in a culturally appropriate manner relying on the collaboration of community educators and managers, supporting mothers, fathers and caregivers to strengthen their knowledge and parenting practices to promote the development of their children.

- Over the years, in Guatemala SAHTOSO became a more holistic approach than its predecessor Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) as, through similar behavioural-change-based methodology it ends human feco-oral transmission in rural communities and not just end open defecation. It does so by ensuring full community coverage to sanitation and hygiene services and empower families to safely treat and store drinking water at home. The last feco-oral route is the protection of food from fecal contamination which will be systematically integrated into SAHTOSO in 2023. This way and in

only few months the communities are free from feco-oral diseases originated from human excreta.

- UNICEF-backed non-formal education centers (*Centros de Educación Extraescolar – CEEX*) provide education and transferable, job-related and entrepreneurial skills opportunities at the primary and secondary levels to out-of-school adolescents and youth, in blended and distance modalities.
- Municipal child protection offices (*Oficina Municipal de Protección de la Niñez y Adolescencia - OMPNA*) aim at the prevention, care, detection, referral and monitoring of cases of violence against children and adolescents. Under the premise to decentralize VAC-relates service provision, OPMNAs allow for inter-institutional articulation among state and social actors linked to the national protection system to provide timely and effective prevention and response services to children victim of violence.
- In social policy, the work on improving planning and budget management at the municipal level represent a programmatic innovation that allows to decidedly impact on the life of children on the ground.
- Together with the National Secretariat of Science and Technology of Guatemala (SENACYT), UNICEF launched the **Junior National Innovation Award** category (*An opportunity for innovation with and for children and adolescents*) to raise awareness and promote a culture of innovation among children and adolescents. The Junior category of the National Innovation Award 2022 sought to generate a space for participation, creativity, and critical thinking in boys and girls between the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades (modality I) of elementary school and middle-level adolescents (modality II). In this space, children and adolescents presented innovative ideas to improve the educational context in which they are developing.
- Continued support was provided to the Secretariat for Social Welfare (SBS) to scale-up the implementation of the **Child Protection Information Management System** (CPIMS+ Primero), an open-source software platform that helps managing protection-related data, with tools that facilitate case management, incident monitoring and family tracing and reunification.
- Within the framework of the behavioural change strategy of the GCNN, UNICEF implemented **RapidPro-based, culturally-sensitive messaging service** for pregnant women, which allowed for increased reach.