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Country programme document

Paraguay

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Paraguay is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$4,515,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$21,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period March 2025–December 2029.

* E/ICEF/2025/1.

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



Programme rationale

1. In recent decades, Paraguay has experienced sustained economic growth, with an increasing gross domestic product (GDP) and a reduction in its poverty rate. Nonetheless, this growth has not been equitable, and significant socioeconomic disparities persist. Indigenous people and people living in rural areas continue to find it particularly difficult to access basic services and economic opportunities.
2. Several challenges limit the full development of Paraguayan children and adolescents, including violence, educational exclusion, maternal and neonatal mortality, malnutrition, preventable deaths, child labour and mental health problems.
3. Although Paraguay has improved child welfare in areas such as health, education, social inclusion and protection against violence, gaps persist that mainly affect the poorest children and adolescents, those from indigenous communities, and those who live in rural areas.
4. According to the 2022 national census, Paraguay has a population of 6.1 million, of which 25 per cent is aged 14 years and under, 66 per cent is between 15 and 64 years, and 9 per cent is over 65 years. Most of the population lives in urban areas (69 per cent). The indigenous population is 140,049 people – 2.3 per cent of the total population – with 88 per cent living in rural areas.¹
5. The economy grew by 6 per cent on average between 2013 and 2017 and, despite the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, it grew by 4.7 in 2023.² Nonetheless, this sustained growth has not translated into greater investments in children; indeed, it fell from 4.6 per cent to 4 per cent of GDP during the 2019–2023 period. Although monetary poverty fell from 41.6 per cent in 2009 to 22.7 per cent in 2023, 32.8 per cent of children and adolescents are still living in poverty. Children represent 45 per cent of people living in poverty in Paraguay.³ Poverty is even higher for indigenous children: 73.7 per cent live in poverty and 40.3 per cent in extreme poverty.⁴
6. In 2021, infant mortality was 13.6 per 1,000 live births, while neonatal mortality was 10 per 1,000 live births. These indicators are even higher for vulnerable populations. The maternal mortality rate was 85.8 per 100,000 live births in 2022,⁵ meaning that one mother died every four days from causes related to pregnancy or childbirth. Paraguay also has the fourth-highest rate of adolescent pregnancy (15–19 years) in the region,⁶ which increases the risk of maternal mortality. Persistent causes of maternal, neonatal and infant morbidity and mortality include inequitable access to obstetric and neonatal services, especially in rural areas; insufficiently trained staff who are unable to rapidly respond to obstetric and neonatal emergencies; poor-quality antenatal care; and sociocultural barriers.
7. Vaccination coverage has fallen in recent years. The number of children with zero doses increased between 2019 and 2021, to 28,860.⁷ The health system needs to be strengthened, especially in the areas of primary care, institutional capacity and

¹ National Institute of Statistics (INE), Paraguay, preliminary data from the 2022 census.

² Central Bank of Paraguay.

³ INE, Continuous Households Survey, 2023.

⁴ INE, Indigenous Households Survey, 2017.

⁵ Ministry of Health and Welfare (MSPBS)/General Directorate of Strategic Health Information, Information Subsystem for Vital Statistics, 2022.

⁶ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), *Why Adolescent Girls? Why Now? A statistical snapshot of the state of adolescent girls in Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2023.

⁷ UNICEF, *The State of the World's Children 2023: For every child, vaccination, regional brief: Latin America and the Caribbean*, UNICEF Innocenti Global Office of Research and Foresight, Florence, Italy, April 2023.

equitable financing, and particularly for rural areas and areas with an indigenous population.

8. Chronic malnutrition remains prevalent among children under the age of 5 years (13 per cent), especially in rural areas (15 per cent) and indigenous communities (25 per cent), as does acute malnutrition, which increased from 4.8 per cent in 2019 to 6 per cent in 2022.⁸ Simultaneously, rates of overweight in children and adolescents are high: 15 per cent of children under 5 years, increasing to 34 per cent of schoolchildren and adolescents aged 5 to 19 years. These figures are above the regional average. Only 31 per cent of infants under 6 months old are exclusively breastfed.⁹ Feeding practices are conditioned by social and cultural factors and poor availability of comprehensive nutrition services in the most vulnerable areas.

9. Despite efforts to increase school enrolment, 25 per cent of children and adolescents in Paraguay are still out of school. Rates are especially high in rural areas and indigenous communities, and among children and adolescents with a disability. Only 1 per cent of children aged 0 to 3 years attend early childhood education and care settings, one of the lowest rates in Latin America,¹⁰ and 55 per cent of children aged 3 to 5 years do not attend a preschool. Thirty-five per cent of adolescents aged 14 to 17 years are out of school due to economic factors, family care demands and lack of flexible access options in rural and remote areas.¹¹ Traditional gender¹² roles still make it difficult for girls and boys to access and stay in education. Pregnancy and the growing demand for care post-COVID are emerging contributors to educational exclusion among adolescent girls, while child labour mainly affects boys.

10. The low quality of education also requires attention. Only 50 per cent of students in Grade 3 understand basic texts¹³ and only 10 per cent of 15-year-olds achieve minimum competence in mathematics.¹⁴ The average reading level of girls is 14 points higher than that of boys, while boys perform 14 points better than girls in mathematics.¹⁵

11. While 91.9 per cent of the population has access to an improved water source, gaps persist: 94.2 per cent in urban areas compared with 88.2 per cent in rural areas, and only 25 per cent of indigenous households have access to running water.¹⁶ In addition, water quality and service continuity problems persist. Nationally, 11 per cent of public schools and 43 per cent of schools in indigenous contexts do not have a safe drinking water supply, while 7 per cent of public schools and 69 per cent of schools in indigenous contexts lack basic sanitation facilities. Moreover, 88 per cent of

⁸ MSPBS/National Institute of Nutrition, 2022.

⁹ Multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS), 2016.

¹⁰ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNESCO Santiago Office, UNICEF and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Education in Latin America and the Caribbean at a crossroads: Regional monitoring report SDG4 – Education 2030*, UNESCO, 2022.

¹¹ Ministry of Education and Science (MEC), *Children and Adolescents Out of School: Profiles and barriers to exclusion in Paraguay*, 2022, available in Spanish at <https://www.unicef.org/paraguay/media/9166/file/Estudio%20Ni%C3%B1os,%20ni%C3%B1as%20y%20adolescentes%20fuera%20de%20la%20escuela.pdf>, accessed on 31 October 2024.

¹² Understood according to the National Constitution of Paraguay.

¹³ UNESCO and Latin American Laboratory for the Assessment of Quality in Education, *Fundamental learnings in Latin America and the Caribbean: Student learning achievement assessment – Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study (ERCE 2019)*, Executive summary, UNESCO, 2021, available at https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380257_eng, accessed on 31 October 2024.

¹⁴ MEC, *Education in Paraguay: Findings from the PISA for Development experience*, 2019, available in Spanish at https://mec.gov.py/cms_v2/adjuntos/15228?1544781993, accessed on 31 October 2024.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ INE, IV National Population and Housing Census for Indigenous Peoples, 2022.

schools do not have appropriate facilities for menstrual hygiene.¹⁷ Fifteen per cent of healthcare facilities do not have access to safe water and 74 per cent do not have basic sanitation facilities.¹⁸ This lack of access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, including menstrual hygiene and health facilities, affects school retention and increases the risk of sexual violence, mainly for young and adolescent girls.

12. Child labour affects 22.4 per cent of Paraguayan children and adolescents and is higher among boys (30.2 per cent) than girls (14.8 per cent), as well as more common in rural areas (31.5 per cent) than in urban areas (15.2 per cent).¹⁹ “Criadazgo”, considered a form of hazardous child labour, is common and, according to the latest available data, affects about 46,000 girls.²⁰

13. In Paraguay, children and adolescents experience many forms of violence (sexual, physical and psychological abuse, corporal punishment), principally in their family, community and school environments. Underreporting and a lack of disaggregated data on cases of violence are major barriers to understanding the scale of this problem. The latest available statistics show that 52 per cent of children and adolescents have experienced violent discipline methods, with the highest rates found among children aged 3 to 4 years (66 per cent).²¹ In addition, 16.7 per cent of school students in Paraguay (13–18 years) have experienced some form of physical or psychological attack at school.²²

14. The majority of sexual violence cases occur in the family environment.²³ In 2023, the Public Prosecutor’s Office received 6,079 reports of sexual violence.²⁴ Additionally, 21.6 per cent of young women aged 20–24 years were married before they turned 18.²⁵ Reporting and complaint mechanisms are not sufficiently accessible, well known or interconnected. Social norms continue to tolerate and justify violence and rights violations, particularly against girls. These practices include child marriage, early unions and human trafficking, with 75 per cent of the victims being women and girls.²⁶

15. Although there is no exhaustive information on mental health, some data indicate that the issue is a problem. Between 2015 and 2021, 685 children and adolescents (aged 5–19 years) died from suicide.²⁷ Mental health services are largely inaccessible to children and adolescents, with limited budget allocation, weak information systems, and a lack of programmes or strategies focused on preventing and detecting mental illness early.

¹⁷ MEC and UNICEF, Census of WASH service status in indigenous schools, 2021.

¹⁸ World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, Joint Monitoring Programme for Water and Sanitation, 2018.

¹⁹ General Directorate of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses, International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) and International Labour Organization, Magnitude and characteristics of child and adolescent labour in Paraguay: National Survey of Activities of Children and Adolescents 2011, Asunción, 2013.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ MICS, 2016.

²² Pan American Health Organization and WHO, Global School-based Student Health Survey, 2017, available in Spanish at <https://dvent.mspbs.gov.py/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Encuesta-Global-de-Salud-Escolar-GSHS-2017.pdf>, accessed on 18 October 2024.

²³ United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), We Are All Responsible campaign; see <https://paraguay.unfpa.org/es/news/lanzan-la-campa%C3%B1a-a-todosomosresponsables-2024-contral-abuso-sexual-infantil-y-adolescent>.

²⁴ Public Prosecutor’s Office, Punishable acts against children and adolescents, 2023, available in Spanish at <https://www.ministeriopublico.gov.py/nota/en-el-2023-el-ministerio-publico-atendio-6079-victimas-de-hechos-punibles-contral-9263>, accessed on 18 October 2024.

²⁵ UNICEF, *Why Adolescent Girls? Why Now?*, 2023.

²⁶ UNFPA, ‘Human trafficking: Spain and Paraguay strengthen joint work’, Press release, 29 June 2023, available in Spanish at <https://paraguay.unfpa.org/es/news/trata-de-personas-espa%C3%B1a-y-paraguay-fortalecen-trabajo-conjunto>, accessed on 18 October 2024.

²⁷ MSPBS, mortality indicators, 2021.

16. The right to an identity and civil registration is still not enjoyed nationwide. Approximately 14 per cent of children under the age of 1 year do not have birth registration, a figure that increases to 42.4 per cent among indigenous children.²⁸ Moreover, 6.4 per cent of the population under the age of 18 years does not have an identity document²⁹ (26 per cent among indigenous people).³⁰

17. The deprivation of adolescents' liberty is a serious challenge. Its use as a correctional measure is widespread, with 172 adolescents recorded as deprived of liberty in 2023.³¹ The absence of specialized care for this population is significant. The judicial system is weak, slow and penalizes victims of crime.

18. Paraguay is vulnerable to natural disasters and the effects of climate change, especially in the Chaco region, where droughts and poor-quality groundwater affect the water supply,³² especially for indigenous communities. Children and adolescents are exposed to heat waves (with an increase from 36 to 71 days of extreme temperatures since 1960³³), forest fires, severe storms, droughts and floods.

19. Early childhood development is an area of particular concern, as it is hindered by social norms that reinforce violent discipline, place caregiving responsibilities on women, and overlook the value of early learning and play. Promoting optimal development requires a legal framework, public policies, and behaviour change interventions aligned with the social protection system.

20. The main lessons learned from the 2020–2024 country programme evaluation are: (a) internal and external challenges related to reorganization and coordination need to be overcome to implement an intersectoral life cycle approach; (b) the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that Paraguay needs to improve its emergency preparedness and response; (c) the territorial approach adopted promoted collaboration between the public, private and civil society sectors at national and subnational levels and helped to improve the situation of children and adolescents; and (d) social networks, innovative campaigns and partnerships with influencers have been an effective way to disseminate data and raise awareness on issues such as educational exclusion, support families during the pandemic and encourage children to return to school.

Programme priorities and partnerships

21. UNICEF will focus its programme components on supporting the Government to implement policies and programmes aimed at the most vulnerable children and adolescents in its prioritized geographic areas.³⁴ In doing so, it will take advantage of the synergies inherent in the plans and government measures set out in the National Development Plan being updated (PNDP), the National Plan for Children and Adolescents, the National Plan for Comprehensive Early Childhood Development, the National Poverty Reduction Plan (PNRP) and other plans focused on education, health, comprehensive early childhood protection, violence prevention and indigenous populations.

²⁸ INE, Continuous Households Survey, 2021.

²⁹ INE, Continuous Households Survey, 2023.

³⁰ INE, Indigenous Households Survey, 2017.

³¹ National Youth Offenders Service, 2023.

³² European Commission, Risk Management Index, 2018.

³³ UNICEF, 'Heat waves: almost 500 million children exposed to extreme heat', Press release, 14 August 2024, available in Spanish at <https://www.unicef.es/noticia/olas-de-calor-casi-500-millones-de-ninos-expuestos-al-calor-extremo#:~:text=Por%20su%20parte%2C%20Paraguay%20ha,superiores%20a%2035%20grados%20cent%C3%ADgrados>, accessed on 18 October 2024.

³⁴ The Government of Paraguay has identified 22 districts and three departments to be prioritized for social programmes as part of the "Let's Go to School!" initiative.

22. UNICEF designed this country programme in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2025–2029, and with the inter-agency mandate on children’s rights. The programme builds on UNICEF experience in coordinating with strategic partners and advocating for children’s rights at the national level and in key areas. It integrates humanitarian efforts with development initiatives and draws on UNICEF work with adolescents and early childhood. Additionally, it incorporates recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child,³⁵ focusing on specialized care for child victims of violence, strengthening information systems, and increasing investment in children.

23. The proposed strategies are based on the evaluation of the 2020–2024 UNICEF country programme in Paraguay, the United Nations Common Country Analysis on Paraguay, the situation analysis of children, and consultations with government counterparts, civil society, development agencies, adolescents and young people. They align with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Goal Areas of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025.

24. UNICEF will continue advancing child and adolescent well-being by mobilizing resources, fostering public-private partnerships, and generating evidence to enhance community life. It will coordinate with other United Nations agencies on capacity-building, international cooperation and social change. The programme aims to shift social norms, improve inclusive multisectoral services, and advocate for prioritizing children’s rights in political agendas, focusing on early childhood and protecting girls from violence and harmful practices. Additionally, UNICEF will support emergency preparedness through local capacity-building and technological innovation. UNICEF will also encourage adolescents to engage in decision-making and contribute to social and environmental innovations.

25. The Paraguay country programme cycle will be organized around four key components: health and nutrition – including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), climate change and disaster risk reduction – education, protection against violence, and social inclusion. The programme emphasizes the need for intersectoral, coordinated and holistic responses to address the challenges faced by children and adolescents. It aligns with prioritized public policies and fosters collaboration with the Government, civil society, academia and the private sector to ensure the sustainability, effectiveness and scalability of interventions.

26. The programme will prioritize early childhood and enhance coordination mechanisms to ensure effective collaboration across teams, aiming to improve conditions and promote the optimal development of all children.³⁶ It will focus on key activities: (i) changing parenting practices (particularly through the expansion of the Care for Child Development and Caring for the Caregivers initiatives); (ii) increasing coverage and quality of health, education and early childhood care by strengthening institutions and advocacy for investment; and (iii) strengthening investment and social protection in early childhood and family-friendly policies.

³⁵ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding observations on the combined fourth to sixth reports of Paraguay, 2023.

³⁶ The Government announced the installation of 100 comprehensive early childhood care centres, which will receive UNICEF’s technical assistance for their operation. See www.presidencia.gov.py/sala-de-prensa/noticias/historial/gobierno-instalara-unos-100-centros-de-atencion-integral-para-la-primera-infancia.

Health, nutrition, WASH and climate change

27. Supporting outcomes 1 (social development) and 2 (environmental sustainability) of the UNSDCF and strategies 1.2 (social services) and 3.4 (sustainability of the global environment) of the PNDP in this component, UNICEF will support national efforts to reduce maternal and child morbidity and mortality, especially among young and adolescent girls, and to improve child and adolescent nutrition, by introducing the Safe Motherhood Focused on Childhood model and supporting the provision of comprehensive and resilient services focused on strengthening primary healthcare. UNICEF will support the expansion of the Care for Child Development approach, and the creation of protocols and standards for early childhood.

28. UNICEF will promote policy dialogues to implement and update frameworks and policies that ensure inclusive, culturally appropriate health services with qualified workers and healthy food environments for children and adolescents. Additionally, it will support the strengthening of information systems, evidence generation and capacity-building to enhance nutrition for children, adolescents and mothers, including efforts in emergency prevention, preparedness and response.

29. UNICEF will work to integrate children and adolescents into information management, policymaking, programme design and financing within WASH sector institutions for risk management and climate change. It will promote better coordination between the education, health and environmental sectors to ensure adequate WASH facilities in schools and healthcare services. Additionally, UNICEF will support technological innovation and training to enhance the sustainability of WASH systems in vulnerable communities and promote hygiene practices to prevent the spread of arboviruses and waterborne and communicable diseases.

30. UNICEF will strengthen the participation of adolescents, young people and women in combating climate change and the proper management of WASH systems, especially for adolescent girls. UNICEF will promote the importance of menstrual hygiene, ensuring that the specific needs of adolescent girls are recognized and addressed in WASH system management and related policy planning.

31. In the area of early childhood, UNICEF will focus on enhancing maternal and child healthcare, preventing avoidable maternal and neonatal deaths – particularly those linked to adolescent pregnancy – through culturally appropriate services tailored to adolescent girls. It will strengthen primary healthcare services to offer quality obstetric and neonatal care, boost immunization coverage, and address non-communicable diseases among children and adolescents, including emergency preparedness. Additionally, UNICEF will collaborate with key partners to change social and community practices, encouraging families to seek healthcare and detect signs of disability or developmental delays at early stages.

32. The nutrition intervention will promote and support exclusive breastfeeding, including in emergency situations. It will also promote the protection of breastfeeding in workplaces with key programme partners, such as Empresas que Cuidan (Companies that Care). UNICEF will address chronic malnutrition among children under the age of 5 years, particularly in rural and indigenous communities. It will also work to prevent overweight and obesity in children and adolescents, as well as malnutrition in pregnant women.

Learning and acquiring skills for the future

33. This component, aligned with the UNSDCF social development outcome 1 and the PNDP social services strategy 1.2, focuses on ensuring that vulnerable children and adolescents access and stay in a strengthened education system. UNICEF will

collaborate with the Ministry of Education and local governments to improve learning opportunities, enhance teachers' skills for children with disabilities, and encourage family participation, particularly in early, middle and high school education. It will also work to consolidate education information systems and bolster the education system's resilience during emergencies. Additionally, UNICEF will advocate for the importance of education, emphasizing early education and the re-enrolment of out-of-school students.

34. UNICEF will support key areas such as the creation of flexible educational opportunities, catching up on lost learning, skills development and strengthening teachers' skills, with a disability-inclusive and sociolinguistically and culturally sensitive approach. UNICEF will promote mother-tongue learning and the training of early childhood educators on the Care for Child Development and Caring for the Caregivers initiatives.

35. This component will focus on supporting the expansion of coverage and improving the quality of early childhood education, particularly for children aged 0 to 3 years. UNICEF will work to create more accessible services, and to improve the quality of education for children aged 3 to 5 years, a significant number of whom are still unable to access education. Drawing on evidence, UNICEF will support the creation of flexible educational offerings in early childhood and higher-quality education for children aged 3 to 5 years.

36. UNICEF will also contribute to the implementation of protocols to actively seek out-of-school children and to improve educational retention. UNICEF will support the improvement of information systems to prevent educational exclusion and develop plans for education in emergencies, including the creation of temporary spaces for learning and teacher training.

Protecting children against all forms of violence

37. Contributing to outcome 4 (institutional strengthening) of the UNSDCF and strategy 4.1 (human rights, justice, defence and security) of the PNDP, UNICEF will support national efforts to reduce gaps in the protection of children and adolescents in prioritized areas, promoting safe environments free from violence and the importance of mental health as an integral part of child welfare. These efforts will also prioritize care for young children and vulnerable groups and in humanitarian contexts.

38. UNICEF will help to establish a specialized system of care for victims of violence that guarantees their protection and the prevention of violence. UNICEF will help to ensure that families and communities have access to information and tools to prevent violence, promoting self-care and the importance of mental health. UNICEF will advocate for stronger public policies and legislation to protect children and adolescents, guaranteeing that their voices are heard and considered when designing solutions.

39. This component will seek to strengthen local services to make child registration and identification systems more accessible and efficient, and to implement public policies to prevent and address violence against children and adolescents, particularly in early childhood.

40. The component will also raise awareness of the importance of interactions with fathers, mothers and caregivers in early childhood, improving non-violent parenting practices and increasing parents' and caregivers' active participation in loving and sensitive care and early learning activities, in coordination with the Government and the private sector.

Social inclusion

41. Supporting outcome 1 (social development) of the UNSDCF and strategy 1.1 (equitable social development) of the PNDP, this component will help to ensure that children, adolescents and their families – especially the most vulnerable – benefit from a social protection system that is equitable, adequately funded and based on rights and evidence, and which allows them to live free from poverty in its multiple dimensions.

42. The results of this component include: (a) strengthening and integrating social programmes aimed at early childhood and at reducing educational exclusion within a child-sensitive social protection system in prioritized areas; (b) evidence-based advocacy for a more predictable and sustainable public budget for social policies aimed at children; and (c) promoting and generating evidence on the multiple dimensions of child poverty, together with support for strengthening capacity for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection policies and programmes aimed at children.

43. UNICEF will assist national and subnational governments in prioritizing child-focused programmes within the social protection system, with a focus on young children. It aims to enhance programme coordination and scalability while building community capacity to plan and monitor public services. Key areas include early childhood care, conditional cash transfers, and school feeding programmes, which are essential tools for reducing educational exclusion and child poverty, especially among adolescents.

44. In addition, UNICEF will advocate for investment in children and generate evidence on the welfare of children, adolescents and their families, to strengthen the enforceability of their rights and support the Government to measure multidimensional child poverty and monitor priority public policies to reduce such poverty.

45. UNICEF will support the Government in expanding social services for children and adolescents, focusing on early childhood development and family-centred policies. It will collaborate with public authorities and the private sector, generate evidence to ensure the inclusion of marginalized groups, and design management models to help implement, monitor, and evaluate social protection policies.

Programme effectiveness

46. This component will support coordination, planning and synergy between the programmes, while managing quality situation analysis, monitoring and evaluation to increase programme effectiveness, relevance, replicability and sustainability. It will also monitor intersectoral priorities, including: (a) social behaviour change at institutional and community levels, including the creation of solutions together with rights holders, evidence generation, capacity-strengthening and the participation of adolescents; (b) climate change and disaster risk reduction, with a focus on children and intersectoral resilience-building; (c) communication, advocacy and partnerships to increase visibility, influence decision-making, mobilize resources and leverage public and private sector support; and (d) the use of technology and innovation, risk-based programming, and emergency preparedness and response.

Summary budget table

<i>Programme component</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other Resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Health, nutrition, WASH and climate change	1 132	8 400	9 532
Learning and acquiring skills for the future	1 189	5 250	6 439
Protecting children against all forms of violence	814	3 150	3 964
Social inclusion	781	2 520	3 301
Programme effectiveness	599	1 680	2 279
Total	4 515	21 000	25 515

Programme and risk management

47. This CPD outlines UNICEF contributions to the national results and is the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at country, regional and headquarters levels are prescribed in the UNICEF programme and operations policies and procedures.

48. Institutional risk management will involve monitoring risks related with the harmonized approach to cash transfer processes, fundraising trends, the emergencies impact on the programme, staffing changes, and external factors such as political and economic stability that may affect the programme's quality, efficiency and effectiveness.

49. Programme coordination will ensure intersectorality and coordination both within UNICEF and with other United Nations agencies, in line with the UNSDCF 2025–2029. It will also ensure the availability of resources for the implementation of programme commitments and will be responsible for promoting strategic partnerships and inter-agency coordination for delivering the outcomes.

50. UNICEF will periodically identify and mitigate the risks identified in the theory of change and emerging risks on an ongoing basis, including identifying the vulnerability of children and adolescents to climate change, to achieve the planned results. Within the framework of the UNSDCF, UNICEF will support national efforts to respond to the economic and social impact of any future pandemics.

Monitoring and evaluation

51. The results and resources framework is fundamental for monitoring and evaluating the country programme, and for managing indicators to identify bottlenecks and progress towards results. UNICEF will build capacity to generate timely and quality evidence to measure the vulnerability of children and adolescents. Monitoring and evaluation activities will be implemented at various levels, including evaluations of interventions and support to the national statistics system. In addition, the country's evaluation capacity will be strengthened.

52. The integrated monitoring and evaluation framework for the UNICEF programme, aligned with the 2023 revised evaluation policy of UNICEF, will guide decision-making and improve child and adolescent-centred policies in Paraguay. UNICEF will participate in the monitoring committee for the UNSDCF 2025–2029, which will supervise the implementation of joint programmes and make recommendations, especially on emergency prevention and response. The annual and midyear reviews of the UNICEF programme will be used to consolidate inputs for UNSDCF monitoring and reporting.

53. UNICEF, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, will support the country's National Commission for Monitoring Development Goals in preparing its national voluntary progress reports. UNICEF will also support the generation of information needed to monitor national and international commitments, and compliance with the recommendations of the committees on the main human rights instruments.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Paraguay – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, March 2025–December 2029

Convention on the Rights of the Child: articles 2–10, 12, 13, 15, 17–21, 23–32, 34–37, 39 and 40
National priorities: (a) PNDP; (b) PNRP; (c) National Education Plan 2024; (d) National Health Plan 2015–2030; (e) National Plan for Comprehensive Early Childhood Development 2010–2020; (f) National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence; (g) National Plan for Indigenous Peoples; (h) National Water and Sanitation Plan 2023; (i) National Plan for Children and Adolescents
UNSDCF outcomes involving UNICEF: (1) Social development: reducing inequality-related gaps in access to rights and opportunities; (2) Environmental sustainability: achieving an environmental and ecological balance between economic activities and the sustainable holistic management of natural resources that guarantees the right of people, especially vulnerable populations, to a healthy environment; (3) Inclusive economic development: Sustained and inclusive economic development through more equitable economic growth; and (4) Institutional strengthening: the Government has limited capacity to identify and respond to the needs of the population, especially groups in vulnerable situations.
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 Goal Areas: 1–5

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
1 and 2	1. By 2029, the most vulnerable children, adolescents and women have access to comprehensive climate-resilient health, nutrition and WASH services offering quality care with community participation.	<p>Maternal mortality ratio per 100 000 live births B: 86 (2022) T: 70 (2029)</p> <p>Percentage of children under the age of 5 years with chronic malnutrition B: 13% (2022) T: 10% (2029)</p> <p>Percentage of overweight and obesity among children aged 5–19 years Overweight: B: 21% (2022) T: 18% (2029)</p> <p>Obesity:</p>	<p>Ministry of Health and Welfare (MSPBS) administrative data</p> <p>MSPBS administrative data</p> <p>MSPBS administrative data</p> <p>Joint Monitoring Programme for Water and Sanitation data</p> <p>Ministry of Education and Science (MEC)</p>	<p>1.1: Health systems at national, subnational and community levels are strengthened to improve equitable access to health interventions for mothers and children, including adolescents.</p> <p>1.2: Children, adolescents and their families have access to food and health systems that help prevent malnutrition in all its forms, with community participation in prioritized areas.</p> <p>1.3: Vulnerable children, adolescents, families and</p>	<p>MSPBS</p> <p>National Institute of Nutrition</p> <p>Ministry of Public Works and Communications</p> <p>Directorate of Potable Water and Sanitation</p> <p>MEC</p> <p>National Environmental Sanitation Service</p> <p>General Directorate of Environmental Health</p> <p>Private sector</p>	1 132	8 400	9 532

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
		<p>B: 13% (2022) T: 10% (2029)</p> <p>Coverage of basic water services in primary schools B: 41% (2022) T: 80% (2029)</p> <p>Percentage of children aged 36–59 months showing adequate development in at least three of these four areas: literacy-numeracy, physical, socio-emotional and learning capacity B: 81.9% (2016) T: 85% (2029)</p>	administrative data	communities access climate-resilient WASH services through policies and programmes focused on children and adolescents.				
1	2. By 2029, the most vulnerable children and adolescents can access, remain in and learn in a strengthened, inclusive, intercultural and relevant education system.	<p>Percentage of children aged 3–5 years participating in early childhood education</p> <p>Nursery school (3 years old) B: 8% boys; 12% girls (2022) T: 18% boys; 21% girls (2029)</p> <p>Kindergarten (4 years old) B: 39% boys; 48% girls (2022) T: 45% boys; 55% girls (2029)</p> <p>Preschool (5 years old) B: 67% boys and 74% girls (2022) T: 75% boys; 80% girls (2029)</p>	MEC statistics	<p>2.1: Children and adolescents have more relevant and contextualized learning opportunities that allow them to thrive in life, in prioritized areas.</p> <p>2.2: Families, communities, children and adolescents increase their capacity to demand quality education and are more aware of the importance of education, in prioritized areas.</p> <p>2.3: The national education system has improved capacity to implement and monitor the plans and programmes that guarantee the right to education.</p>	UNESCO MEC Ministry of Children and Adolescents (MINNA)	1 189	5 250	6 439

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
		<p>Lower secondary completion rate (%) B: 52% (2022) T: 67% (2029)</p> <p>Proportion of students in Grade 3 achieving minimum level of competency (level II) in mathematics B: 38% (2022) T: 49% (2028)</p> <p>Proportion of students in second or third grade achieving minimum level of competency in reading B: 49% (2022) T: 62% (2028)</p>						
4	3. By 2029, children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable and those in humanitarian contexts, live in environments that protect them from violence, guaranteeing them opportunities for their full development.	<p>Adolescent pregnancy rate (births per 1 000 girls aged 15–19 years) B: 70 (2021) T: 60 (2029)</p> <p>Rate of suicide among 5–19 age group per 100 000 population B: 6.3 (2021) T: 5.9 (2029)</p> <p>Registration of births children aged under 1 year (%) B: 86% (2023) T: 88% (2029)</p>	<p>MSPBS records</p> <p>Register of the National Police, MSPBS and Public Prosecutor's Office</p> <p>National Institute of Statistics (INE) Continuous Households Survey (EHC) 2023</p>	<p>3.1: The protection system has strengthened its specialized assistance and follow-up services for victims of violence, with an emphasis on sexual abuse, in selected areas.</p> <p>3.2: Parents, caregivers and community members have acquired skills to promote mental health care and protective environments for children and adolescents.</p> <p>3.3: Paraguay has an adequate legal framework to protect children and adolescents from violence, promoting access to identity, the right to live in a safe family environment, and the eradication of</p>	<p>MINNA</p> <p>MSPBS</p> <p>Public Defender's Office</p> <p>Municipal governments</p> <p>Community associations</p> <p>Civil society organizations</p> <p>Communities</p> <p>Families</p> <p>MSPBS</p> <p>National Police</p> <p>Public Prosecutor's Office</p>	814	3 150	3 964

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
				child labour, child marriage and early unions.	National Police (Identification Department) Civil Registry MINNA Academia Private sector			
1	4. By 2029, children, adolescents and their families – especially the most vulnerable – will benefit from a comprehensive social protection system.	<p>Proportion of children and adolescents living in monetary poverty B: 2023: 32.8% T: 2029: 28%</p> <p>Investment in children (as % of GDP) B: 2023: 4% T: 2029: 5%</p> <p>Investment in early childhood (as % of GDP) B: 2023: 0.88% T: 2029: 1.5%</p> <p>Percentage of children and adolescents covered by social protection programmes B: 2022: 13% T: 2029: 16%</p>	<p>INE Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) reports EHC/Ministry of Social Development (MDS)-MINNA reports</p>	<p>4.1: Early childhood programmes are strengthened and integrated into the social protection system, in prioritized areas.</p> <p>4.2: Social programmes to reduce educational exclusion are strengthened and integrated into the social protection system, in prioritized areas.</p> <p>4.3: Public institutions and Paraguayan civil society have updated evidence on the situation of children and adolescents, to promote public investment in children and adolescents.</p>	<p>INE MDS MEF MINNA MEC MSPBS Academia Private sector</p>	781	2 520	3 301
	6. Programme effectiveness					599	1 680	2 279
Total resources						4 515	21 000	25 515