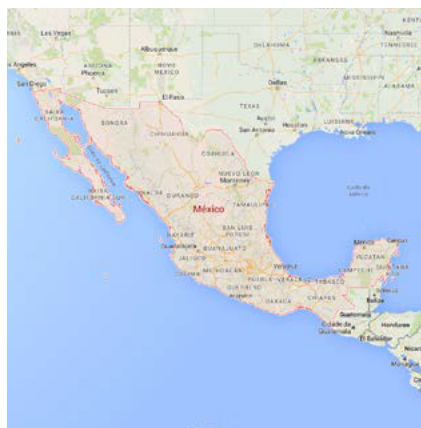


# MEXICO



## Basic Indicators to the top

Under-5 mortality rank	112
Under-5 mortality rate (U5MR), 1990	46
Under-5 mortality rate (U5MR), 2012	16
U5MR by sex 2012, male	18
U5MR by sex 2012, female	15
Infant mortality rate (under 1), 1990	37
Infant mortality rate (under 1), 2012	14
Neonatal mortality rate 2012	7
Total population (thousands), 2012	12,084.5
Annual no. of births (thousands), 2012	2,269
Annual no. of under-5 deaths (thousands), 2012	37
GNI per capita (US\$), 2012	9,740
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2012	77.3
Total adult literacy rate (%) 2009-2012	93.5
Primary school net enrolment ratio (%) 2008-2011	99.5

SOURCES: UNICEF DATA. <https://data.unicef.org/country/mex/>

Partners in Brazil	Ministry of Education State Government of São Paulo São Paulo Mayor's Office
Partners in Mexico	Ministry of Health Ministry of Education National Commission for Social Protection in Health National Council for the Development of Education (CONAFE) Secretariat of Public Education National System for the Full Development of the Family (SNDIF) Government of Yucatán
Objective of Cooperation	Support the Mexican Government to strengthen capacities for intersectoral coordination for early childhood care and education for children aged 0 to 5 years.
Component within Mexico National Plan of Action	National Development Plan 2013-2018, Objective 3.1 – Develop the human potential of Mexicans with quality education, and Objective 3.2 – Guarantee inclusion and equity in the Educational System. <sup>50</sup>

## Situation of children

Mexico is the world's eleventh-most populated country and twelfth-largest economy. It is well placed to implement a number of advances for children in health, education and social protection.<sup>51</sup> Mexico's reforms in mandatory schooling, the closing of gaps in education and improvements in teaching have been widely recognized.<sup>52</sup> Approximately 4.7 million of Mexico's 42 million children, however, live in extreme poverty. This presents a number of challenges in education. Children are still facing challenges in receiving education<sup>53</sup> due to low enrolment rates, particularly among indigenous and migrant children, with minimal resources assigned to education and disparities in the quality of education.<sup>54</sup>

## Objective of cooperation

Mexico's National Development Plan 2013-2018 also contains the Agenda for Children and Adolescents 2014-2018<sup>55</sup>, which is based on the recommendation of the United Nations Committee for the Rights of the Child.<sup>56</sup> The Agenda aims to create a system of rights for children and adolescents founded on a general law that ensures the respect and maintenance of such rights. It sets out a number of goals in specific areas such as

**early childhood development (ECD) and social inclusion**

In Brazil, education is a key foundational aspect of the overall development framework, as evidenced in the National

Education Plan (2014-2024).<sup>57</sup> The Plan is enforced by the Brazilian Constitution, which guarantees its presence and implementation throughout government changes.

The Mexican Government sent a request, via UNICEF, for technical cooperation with Brazil. Mexico wanted to focus on ECD and education primarily for children from birth to five years of age. They also expressed an interest in learning about the Rights Assurance System for Children and Adolescents in Brazil<sup>58</sup>, which involves a large number of actors and sectors working together with a common agenda for children.

## Cooperation activities

A schedule of activities including meetings and technical field visits was organized to take place in São Paulo in November 2014. Representatives from the Secretariat of Public Education, the Government of Yucatán, the National System for the Full Development of the Family (SNDIF), the National Council for the Development of Education (CONAFE) and the National Commission for Social Protection in Health were included. These activities focused on how the actions of various sectors of the Brazilian Government converge in the Rights Assurance System, as provided for in the Brazilian **Statute of the Child and Adolescent (ECA)**. In addition, the Mexican representatives also learned how the long-term goals of the National Education Plan for infant education were established. They visited a local example of the day care system. The mission also aimed to share experiences about overcoming challenges in public education funding, teacher training and qualification, national education curriculum, and intersectoral coordination to develop, implement and monitor federal, state and municipal policies and programmes.

### BRASIL CARINHOSO

The key strategy of the Brazil Without Poverty Plan focused on children's well-being, based on a perspective of integrated care, covering aspects of child development related to income, education and health. *Brasil Carinhoso* was launched to focus specifically on the BF beneficiaries aged 6 years or less. This focus on early childhood development includes a holistic approach encompassing income, education and health. The strategy aimed to close the gap of extreme poverty, by supplementing families' income in order to ensure that all family members are able to overcome extreme poverty. As a result, the Ministry of Health provided over 9 million children with supplementary vitamins between 2012-2014, and the NutriSUS was created to prevent vitamin and mineral deficiencies in children, by distributing nutritional sachets to daycare centres.



## STATUTE OF THE CHILD AND ADOLESCENT (ECA)

Based on the UN Convention on the rights of the child, and following the National Constitution of 1988, Brazil's Statute of Children and Adolescents (*Estatuto da Criança e do Adolescente*) was passed into law in 1990, which in turn redefined the responsibilities of the State and civil society, requiring the creation of participatory councils at the federal, state and local levels, including Children's Rights Councils (*Conselhos de Direitos*) and Guardianship Councils (*Conselhos Tutelares*) in all of the country's over 5500 municipalities, with the overall aim to ensure a human rights-based integral protection of children and adolescents throughout the Brazilian territory.

QUICK FACTS

## Progress to date

The policies and programmes that were included in the mission were recognized as valuable and applicable to Mexican local conditions. In particular, the governance of the education system and actions for early childhood function, intersectoral collaboration and teaching methods were all recognized as feasible models to be adapted and implemented in Mexico. Following the mission to Brazil, the State of Yucatán, one of the Mexican states that has demonstrated a strong commitment for the welfare of children, committed to form an intersectoral council to promote an interinstitutional ECD agenda. The Early Childhood Development Medium Term Plan for the State of Yucatán has thus been designed to include established goals on the different areas needed to develop an integrated approach to ECD.

### 2014

Formal request from Gvt. of Mexico received

**NOVEMBER:** Mexican government representatives' study mission to Brazil

State of Yucatán formed intersectoral council to promote ECD agenda

State of Yucatán ECD Mid-Term plan includes goals for integrated approach to ECD

### 2015

<sup>50</sup> National Development Plan 2013-2018, Government of the Republic of Mexico

<sup>51</sup> UNICEF Mexico Country Programme Document, 2014-2018, <http://uni.cf/1muhbZF>

<sup>52</sup> The Rights of Children and Adolescents in Mexico: A Present Day Agenda, <http://uni.cf/20Nt8MH>

<sup>53</sup> UNICEF Mexico Country Programme Document, 2014-2018, <http://uni.cf/1muhbZF>

<sup>54</sup> The Rights of Children and Adolescents in Mexico: A Present Day Agenda, <http://uni.cf/20Nt8MH>

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>56</sup> For more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/20qeMfY>

<sup>57</sup> For more information, please visit <http://pne.mec.gov.br>

<sup>58</sup> For more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/104n9GW>