



# The SDGs are at risk

NIÑEZYA COLOMBIA'S NATIONAL SDG REPORT  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

JUNE 2021



## Introduction

**N**íñezYA is the Colombian coalition created in 2017 that comprises over 100 organizations and civil society networks that advocate for the inclusion of ten urgent matters for children and adolescents in government programs and national and territorial development plans. These urgent matters, which we refer to as “NOWs”, ensure children’s full comprehensive development within the framework of sustainable social, environmental and economic development. Most, if not all of these urgent matters, are included in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These urgent matters or “NOWs” are:

1. **Public policies and investment**
2. **Health and nutrition**
3. **Early education**
4. **Preschool, basic and secondary education**
5. **Play**
6. **Participation**
7. **Strengthening families’ capacities for parenting and childcare**
8. **Protection against all kinds of violence**
9. **Restorative and pedagogical justice for adolescents (Criminal Responsibility System for Adolescents-SRPA)**
10. **Culture of peace, reconciliation and coexistence.**

Colombia has made varying progress both in guaranteeing these urgent matters and in meeting the SDGs. However, it is a fact that its ability to meet the SDGs largely depends on the many structural challenges it faces. The pandemic has intensified these challenges and has jeopardized progress made. As ECLAC<sup>1</sup>, UNICEF<sup>2</sup> and other organizations have pointed out, Colombia (as the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean countries) is at risk of definitively losing progress made in recent decades in favor of sustainable development. Similar to the 2021 Third Voluntary National Review (VNR), which Colombia will present at the United Nations’ High-Level Political Forum, this document focuses on a subset of the SDGs, namely those related to the ten NOWs.



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## SDG1: End poverty

### Families’ contribution to children’s well being is in danger

The crisis caused by the pandemic has affected the different environments where children and adolescents’ lives unfold. The first and most critical environment – the family- is now in grave danger. Longstanding problems that affect families’ have become exacerbated and have increased families’ vulnerability. According to the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE, 2021), **between 2019 and 2020, 3.6 million people entered monetary poverty, and 2.8 million people entered extreme monetary poverty. In 2020, 42.5% of the Colombian population was poor (as measured by monetary poverty), which means there was an increase of 6.8 percentage points from 2019, when the percentage was 35.7% (see figure 1). In turn, in 2020, extreme monetary poverty in Colombia was estimated at 15.1%, with an increase of 5.5 percentage points from 2019.** It is estimated that the incidence of poverty could increase by 6 percentage points in 2021 due to the current emergency (see figure 2).

### Strengthen families’ parenting and childcare capacities NOW

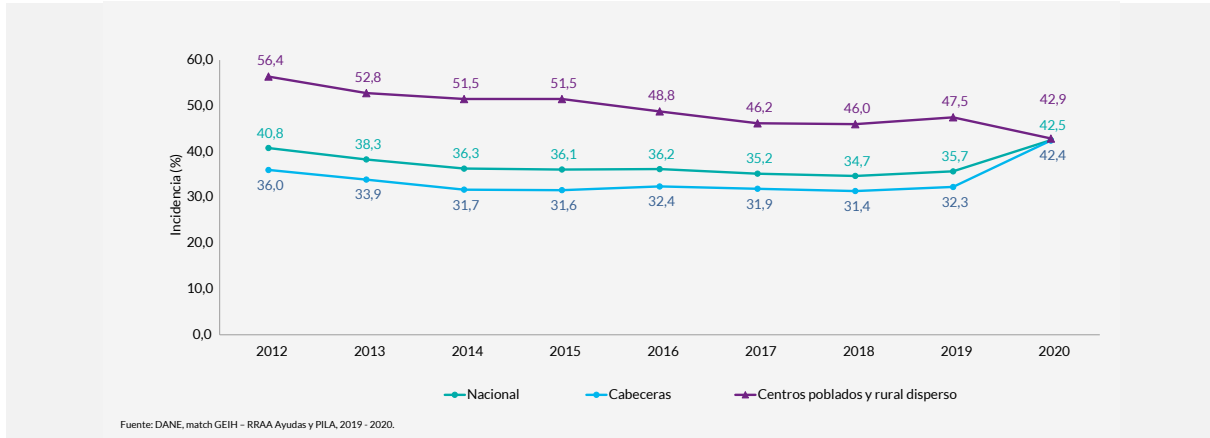
Lack of income makes it difficult for families to access health care, education, housing and other basic needs, such as food. Moreover, in some cases, it causes the separation of children and adolescents from their families, leading to the loss of parental care, which has negative effects on their psychological, social and physical development. According to Lumos<sup>3</sup>, **there are 12,861 children and adolescents under institutional care in Colombia due to neglect, sexual abuse and child abuse.** Economic problems are also driving child labor and early marriages. According to the International

1. Cepal (2021). Pandemia provoca aumento en los niveles de pobreza sin precedentes en las últimas décadas e impacta fuertemente en la desigualdad y el empleo. Source: <https://www.cepal.org/es/comunicados/pandemia-provoca-aumento-niveles-pobreza-sin-precedentes-ultimas-decadas-impacta>  
 2. Unicef (2020). Evitar una generación perdida a causa del covid 19. Source: <https://www.unicef.org/media/87156/file/Evitar-una-generacion-perdida-causa-covid-2020.pdf>  
 3. Lumos (2021). En nombre del cuidado y la protección de los niños, niñas y adolescentes. La institucionalización en América Latina y el Caribe.

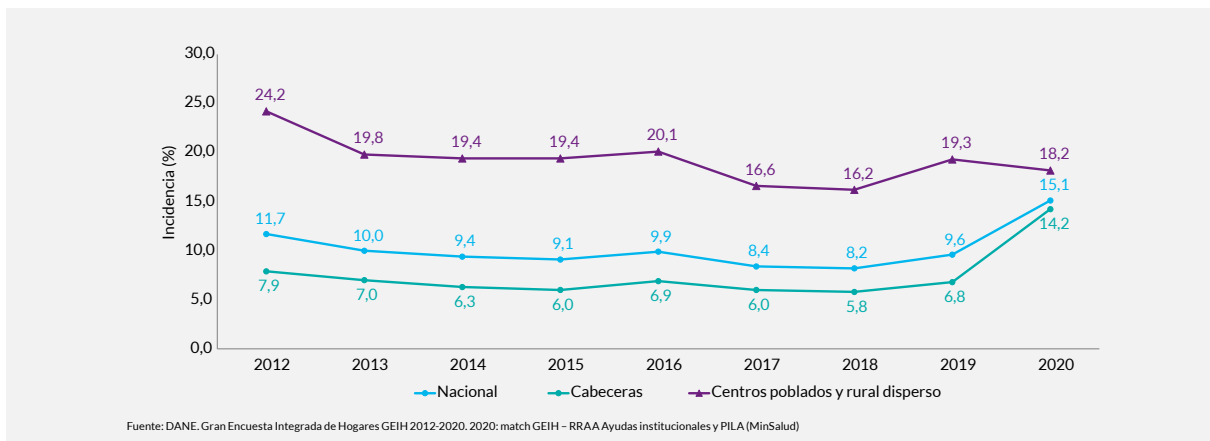
Labor Organization (ILO) and UNICEF<sup>4</sup>, globally, **there are 10.5 million children and adolescents who work, and it is expected that this figure will increase by 0.7% or**

**more. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)<sup>5</sup>, there will be 13 million child marriages in the years following the crisis.**

**Figure 1. Incidence of monetary poverty / Main areas (2012 - 2020)**



**Figure 2. Incidence of extreme monetary poverty / Main areas (2012-2020)**



## SDG2: Zero hunger

**Food on the table is increasingly scarce**

According to Colombia's 2015 National Nutritional Survey (ENSIN) (Colombia's most recent nutrition survey), 54% of households suffer from food insecurity; **10.8% of children**

**under 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition** (low height for age); **1.6% suffer from acute malnutrition** (low weight for height) **and 6.4%, are overweight**. It should be noted that chronic malnutrition among indigenous children is **almost three times the national average (29.6%)**.

In the context of the crisis, the surveys conducted show an increase in the percentage of individuals affected by food insecurity. Research for Effective Covid-19 Responses (RECOVR)<sup>6</sup> shows that **more than a third of those surveyed were forced to limit their food portions**

4. Unicef (2020). According to the ILO and UNICEF, millions of children could be forced into child labor as a result of COVID-19. Source: <https://www.unicef.org/es/comunicados-prensa/millones-ninos-podrian-verse-obligados-realizar-trabajo-infantil-consecuencia-COVID19>

5. World Vision (2020). La tormenta perfecta. Source: [https://www.worldvision.co/media/publicaciones/80/SPE\\_Aftershocks\\_2\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.worldvision.co/media/publicaciones/80/SPE_Aftershocks_2_FINAL.pdf)

6. The study evaluated ten surveys carried out in the region (in-person, telephone and online surveys) in order to determine the immediate, short and medium-term impacts of the pandemic on young children. For Colombia, the researchers analyzed the results of the Research for Effective Covid-19 Responses (RECOVR) Survey, carried out by Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) in technical collaboration with the National Planning Department and UNICEF. RECOVR has been conducted in about ten countries, mainly in Africa, Asia and Latin America, including Colombia. The first phase of the survey was carried out in Colombia between May 8 and 15 and included 1,507 individuals, who were reached by randomly dialing numbers taken from a nationally representative sample of numbers. In August 2020, IPA Colombia launched a second phase of the survey with 1,013 respondents who continued from the first round. The third was held in November 2020 and the results are yet unknown.



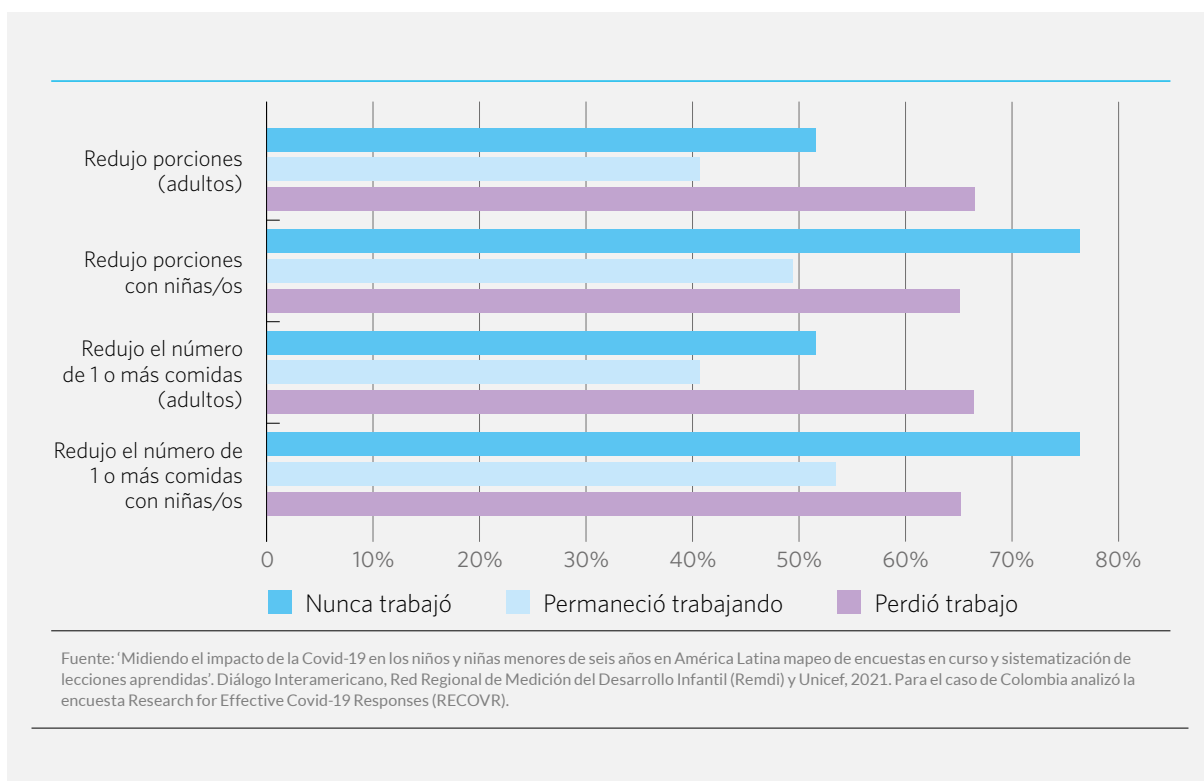
or reduce the number of meals over the preceding week. This percentage was higher among adults with informal employment who have dependent children: 57%. In the lowest income group, this percentage is as high as 61% and among households that did not have a job before or during the pandemic and also have children, the percentage is 75% (see figure 3).

DANE's Social Pulse Survey was carried out in 23 cities between October and December 2020 and the results reveal that **before lockdown measures were put into place,**

**89.3% of households consumed an average of three meals a day; after the quarantine, the number dropped to 69.6%. This decline was nearly three times higher in other cities.**

The SDG target of ending chronic malnutrition in children under 5 years old is set to be achieved by 2030. Before the pandemic, Fundación Éxito projected that hunger eradication could occur by 2036. However, as a result of the 2020 pandemic and the economic decline, Colombia may have suffered a four-year setback in this target. In other words, it may be possible to end hunger by 2040.

**Figure 3. Children in household with members who were unemployed before and during the lockdown measures are more likely to suffer a reduction in their food portions and the number of meals.**



## SDG3: Good health and well-being

**Maternal and newborn deaths are on the rise**

Colombia closed 2020 with alarming data for this SDG, particularly regarding maternal health and newborn deaths. According to the National Health Institute (INS), there has been a significant upsurge in maternal deaths during the pandemic, exceeding the 2018 and

2019 figures. In this regard, Fundación Éxito states that “while in 2020, before the lockdown, the number of maternal deaths was lower than in 2019, approximately two months after the lockdown began, the number of deaths in 2020 exceeded those recorded in each epidemiological week of 2019” (see figures 4 and 5). Although it is clarified that this cannot be directly attributed to the pandemic, this situation suggests that hospital services are giving priority to Covid-19 patients and are limiting other fronts, such as maternal and child health.

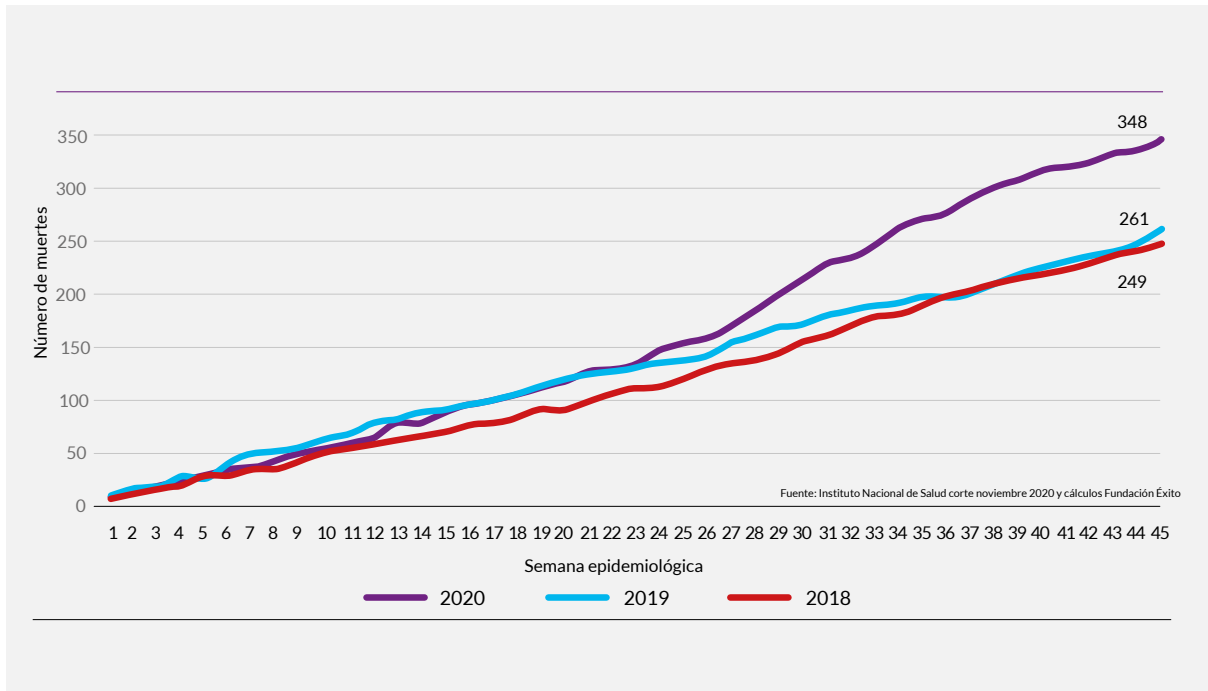
Maternal deaths have a devastating effect on infants. Studies show that survival among children whose mothers died during the first 42 days after childbirth is much lower than among children of surviving mothers.

Moreover, maternal mortality prevents easy access to breast milk and maternal care, critical for child development.

INS data for the second quarter of 2020 (the most critical period of the pandemic) also evidence an upsurge in the death rate among newborns affected by

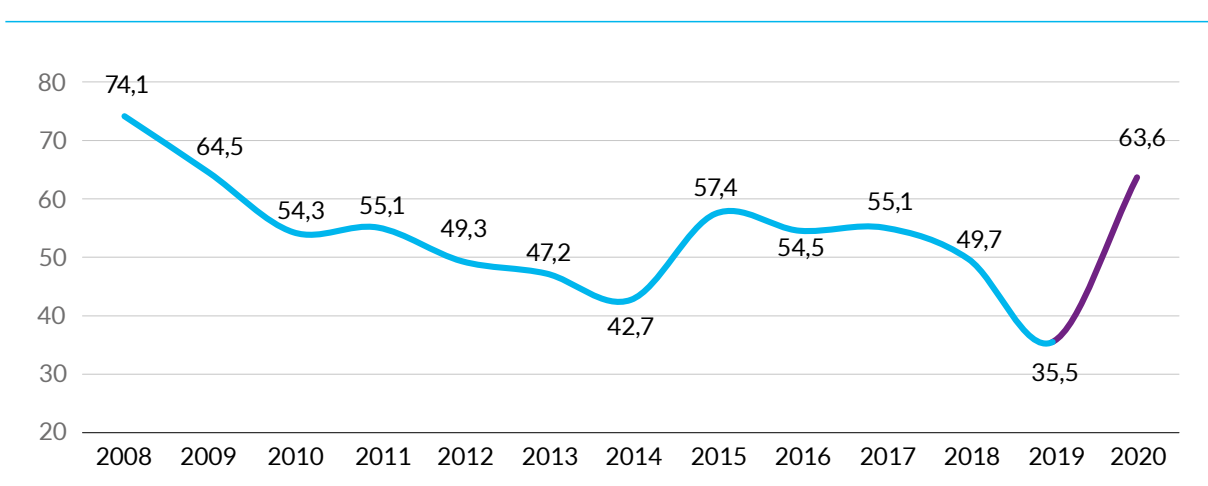
obstetric complications and birth trauma. According to Fundación Éxito, “there was a substantial increase between similar periods in 2019 and 2020: in 2019 there were 35.5 deaths per 100,000 live births and in 2020, the rate was 63.6 per 100,000”. This dynamic may be related to deficiencies in prenatal care”.

**Figure 4. Number of cumulative early maternal deaths by epidemiological week, 2020.**



La muerte materna es la defunción de una mujer mientras está embarazada o dentro de los 42 días siguientes a la terminación de su embarazo, debido a cualquier causa relacionada con o agravada por el embarazo mismo o su atención (Minsalud). Fuente: DANE, Estadísticas Vitales. Fuente: 'Efectos del Covid-19 en la primera infancia de Colombia-No es solo una emergencia'. Fundación Éxito, 2021

**Figure 5. Rate of newborn deaths due to obstetric complications and birth trauma / Second quarter of years 2008-2020.**



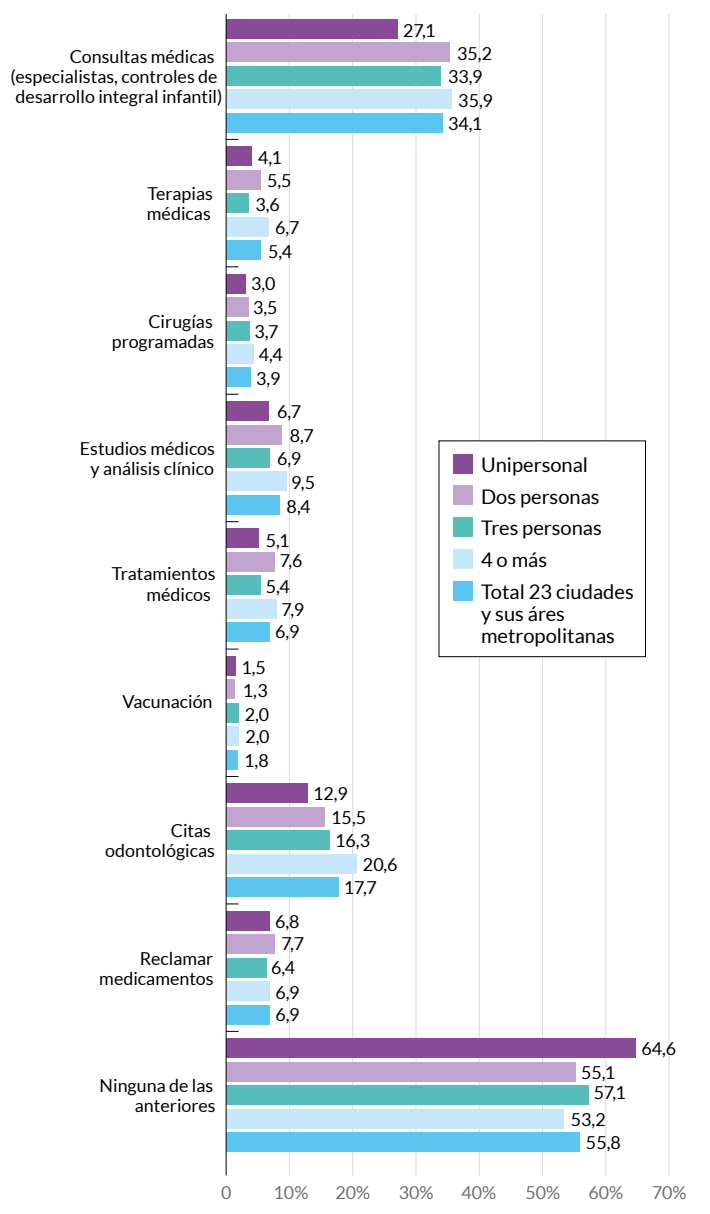
Fuente: DANE, Estadísticas Vitales. Fuente: 'Efectos del Covid-19 en la primera infancia de Colombia-No es solo una emergencia'. Fundación Éxito, 2021.

### Follow-up to health and monitoring is limited

Research shows that children and adolescents' visits to clinical and hospital centers for development check-ups and health care services decreased due to mobility restrictions, difficulties in services, loss of confidence in the health system and service interruption due to the prioritization of Covid-19 patients. DANE's December 2020 Social Pulse survey<sup>7</sup>, for example, highlighted

that 34.1% of households consulted said they had interrupted their visits to the doctor (specialists, comprehensive child development check-ups) once lockdown measures were implemented (see figure 6). Non-attendance to health centers is higher among people with disabilities. ECLAC's 2020 ELIOS survey<sup>8</sup> showed that **76.6% of individuals consulted rated their access to medical consultations and health care services as "very negative"**.

**Figure 6. Since the lockdown measures were implemented, has any household member been forced to stop attending ...?**



Fuente: DANE - EPS.  
Fuente: Encuesta Pulso Social DANE, 2021.  
Recolectó información entre 7 de diciembre 2020 y 3 enero de 2021. Muestra: 10.602 personas. Entrevista telefónica en 23 ciudades capitales de departamento y áreas metropolitanas: Barranquilla, Cartagena, Sincelejo, Valledupar, Santa Marta, Riohacha, Bogotá, Tunja, Villavicencio, Neiva, Florencia, Bucaramanga, Cúcuta, Cali, Pasto, Popayán, Manizales, Ibagué, Pereira, Armenia, Medellín, Montería y Quibdó.

7. This survey collected information between December 7, 2020 and January 3, 2021. Sample: 10,602 people. Telephone interviews in 23 capital cities of the department and metropolitan areas: Barranquilla, Cartagena, Sincelejo, Valledupar, Santa Marta, Riohacha, Bogotá, Tunja, Villavicencio, Neiva, Florencia, Bucaramanga, Cúcuta, Cali, Pasto, Popayán, Manizales, Ibagué, Pereira, Armenia, Medellín, Montería and Quibdó.

8. An online survey with members of social organizations and networks of individuals with disabilities (ELIOS) was carried out between May 22 and June 3, 2020 to inquire about their perceptions regarding the main programs available for them during the pandemic, the existing barriers to access them and the mutual aid initiatives created in this period. The survey was also designed to collect some of their proposals and expectations regarding the future. In total, 125 people from 15 countries in the region responded to the ELIOS survey. Almost 50% of them identified themselves as people with disabilities and 21% as close relatives of people with disabilities.

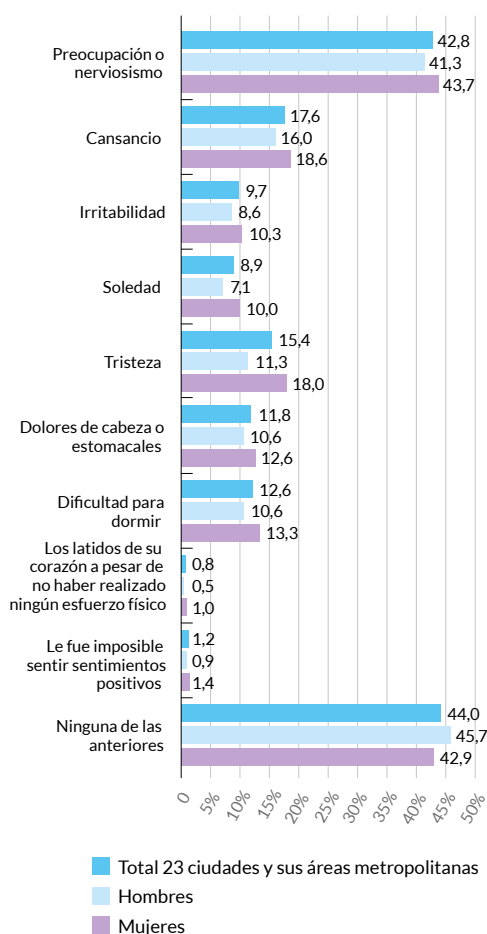
## Children's emotional state is concerning



The lack of social interaction, decreased displays of affection, living with persistent fear and the impossibility of interacting and socializing with peers in schools and programs, such as community toy libraries where children can play and relate, is significantly affecting their emotional health. Studies have shown<sup>9</sup> that play has a positive impact on the brain, on social relationships and emotional intelligence, and it helps develop cognitive, social and non-verbal communication skills, especially when it takes place during the first years of life. Therefore, lack of play prevents children from enjoying these development opportunities.

Recent surveys show that adults, children and adolescents are experiencing recurring symptoms such as nervousness, sadness, sleep difficulties, boredom and fatigue, which indicate the presence of mental illness, according to experts. DANE's Social Pulse survey **shows that 42.8% of those consulted feel concerned or nervous, and although the percentages are lower, they also report feeling tired, irritable, lonely, sad and have sleep problems, among other emotions (see figure 7). The RECOVR study showed that more than 40% of children between 6 and 18 years old have developed new symptoms of anxiety or nervousness after lockdown measures were put into place (see figure 8). Save the Children's global consultation (2020), which included the participation of Colombian children and adolescents, draws attention to the fact that children now spend more time sleeping and relaxing, doing schoolwork and caring for their brothers and sisters than they did before the pandemic. They now have less time for play and exercise, which are critical for their comprehensive development. (see figure 9)**

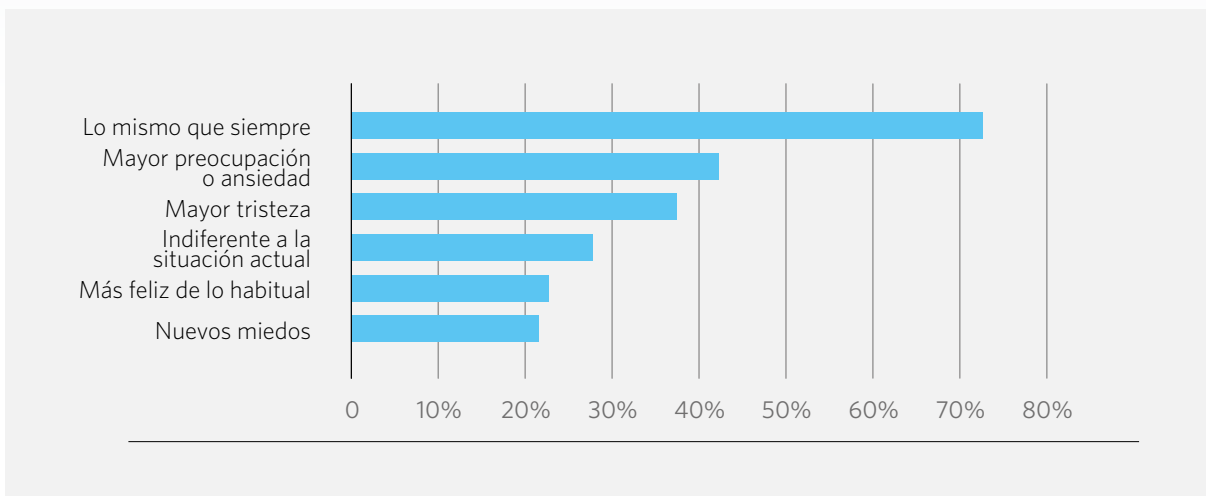
**Figure 7. During the last 7 days you have felt ... / By sex. Total for 23 cities. December 2020.**



Fuente: Encuesta Pulso Social DANE, 2021. Recolectó información entre 7 de diciembre 2020 y 3 enero de 2021. Muestra: 10.602 personas. Entrevista telefónica en 23 ciudades capitales de departamento y áreas metropolitanas: Barranquilla, Cartagena, Sincelejo, Valledupar, Santa Marta, Riohacha, Bogotá, Tunja, Villavicencio, Neiva, Florencia, Bucaramanga, Cúcuta, Cali, Pasto, Popayán, Manizales, Ibagué, Pereira, Armenia, Medellín, Montería y Quibdó.

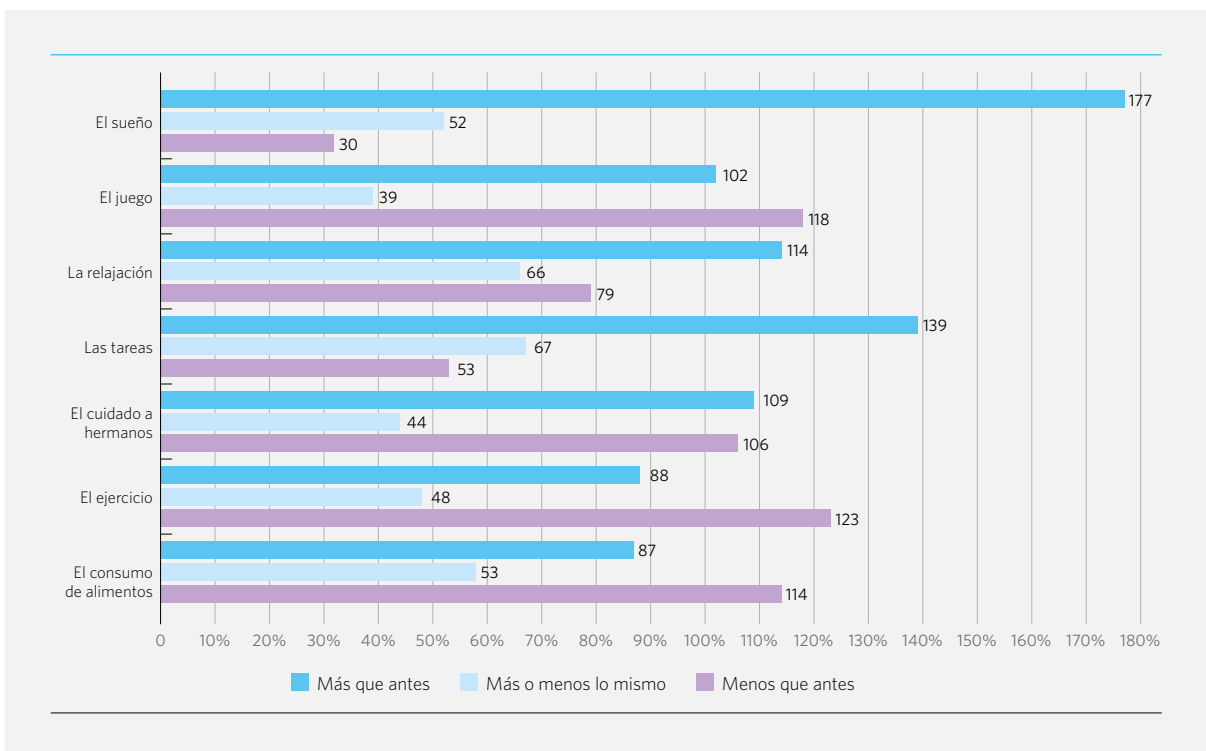
9. Flórez, R., Castro, J., Camelo, R., Martelo, F. y Salazar, I. (2019). El juego: un asunto serio en la formación de los niños y las niñas. Bogotá, D.C.: Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Politécnico Gran colombiano, Corporación Juego y Niñez. Source: [https://juegoynezya.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/El\\_Juego\\_Un\\_Asunto\\_Serio\\_En\\_La\\_Formacion\\_De\\_Ninas\\_y\\_Ninos.pdf](https://juegoynezya.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/El_Juego_Un_Asunto_Serio_En_La_Formacion_De_Ninas_y_Ninos.pdf)

**Figure 8. More than 40% of children (6-18 years old) have developed symptoms of additional anxiety or nervousness since the beginning of lockdown measures.**



Fuente: 'Midiendo el impacto de la Covid-19 en los niños y niñas menores de seis años en América Latina mapeo de encuestas en curso y sistematización de lecciones aprendidas'. Diálogo Interamericano, Red Regional de Medición del Desarrollo Infantil (Remdi) y Unicef, 2021. Para el caso de Colombia analizó la encuesta Research for Effective Covid-19 Responses (RECOVR).

**Figure 9. Changes to daily routines.**



Septiembre 2020. NNA manifiestan dormir más y jugar en la calle menos debido al confinamiento, mientras que la alimentación se ha visto afectada, dado que expresan que consumen menos alimentos.

These new dynamics have also led children and adolescents to engage in household work. Moreover, in some cases they have been forced to live 24/7 with their attackers, which means they are not protected against all kinds of

violence. Historically, in both situations, women have been the most affected, so it is concerning that this situation has deteriorated in the context of the pandemic.



## SDG13: Climate action

### Children are the most vulnerable

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), climate change is contributing to the prevalence and intensification of diseases and it estimates that it is responsible for approximately 2.4% of diarrhea cases worldwide<sup>10</sup>. “More than two million people die annually from diarrheal diseases, and 80% of these are children under 5 years old”. Health problems such as malnutrition have become exacerbated as a result of droughts, and it is estimated that they are responsible for 35% of deaths among children under 5<sup>11</sup>. **According to the 2020 Health Situation Analysis (ASIS), 82.5% of all deaths among children under 5 in Colombia are attributable to respiratory disorders and acute respiratory infections, among others. Mortality from diarrheal diseases mainly occurs among the 50% of the population with the highest Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) scores, with a concentration index of -0.349<sup>12</sup>.**

### Public policies and investment NOW

Moreover, children and adolescents from different areas of the country have lost their parents and caregivers, have been displaced, have seen their homes, schools and surroundings collapse and have been left without drinking water due to heavy rainfall and floods that hit Colombia. In November 2020, Hurricane Iota, the first category five hurricane to ever hit the country, affected the three islands that are part of the Archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina and which are home to 65,000 people. Thousands were left homeless, without education and job

## SDG16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

### An elusive peace

The recruitment of children and adolescents is one of the unresolved tensions that Colombia needs to address to

achieve sustainable and lasting peace. **According to Coalico's Observatory of Children and Armed Conflict (2020), between January and December 2020, 79 recruitment events took place, affecting at least 222 children and adolescents. There was an increase of 12 events and 22 additional victims of child recruitment vis-à-vis 2019 (see figure 10). The departments with the highest number of events were Antioquia (16), Chocó (9), Nariño (7) and Valle del Cauca (7).**

### A culture of peace, reconciliation and coexistence NOW

Children and adolescents' recruitment and use is also carried out by criminal gangs, which usually use them for the theft, narcotics trafficking and possession. These are the main crimes they are charged with and cause them to enter the Criminal Responsibility System for Adolescents (SRPA). This system was created in 2006 by the Childhood and Adolescence Code (Law 1098), and is guided by the principle of restorative and pedagogical justice (see figure 11).

Forced displacement is another crime that increased during 2020 and had a strong impact on children and adolescents. **In 2019, there were 44 displacement events reported, affecting at least 3,500 children and adolescents, while in 2020 there were 45 events identified, with a direct impact on at least 5,742 children and adolescents. That is, there were 2,242 additional victims during 2020.** Ethnic groups and the Afro-descendant population is the most affected. CODHES' Information System on Human Rights and Displacement (SISDHES)<sup>13</sup> found that territories with the highest number of displacements also have the highest number of victims of massacres and murders of social leaders. This is the case of Nariño, Cauca and Antioquia, where during 2020, 205 social leaders were murdered while doing their work. More than 20% of the homicides occurred in these three departments. In other words, the greatest humanitarian crisis in Colombia is concentrated in these departments. Norte de Santander can also be included in this group, due to the number of victims of displacement, massacres and forced migration.

### Restorative and pedagogical justice for adolescents (Criminal Responsibility System for Adolescents - SRPA) NOW

10. OPS, COLEF, COCEF, Jenkins Jorge J.e Iturralde Gustavo (2009). Cambio Climático y Salud. Frontera México-Estados Unidos. Source: <https://iris.paho.org/bitstream/handle/10665.2/3496/fep002602.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

11. Organización Mundial de la Salud & Organización Meteorológica Mundial (2012). Atlas de la salud y del clima. Source: <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/112303>

12. Dirección de Epidemiología y Demografía Análisis de Situación de Salud (ASIS) 2020. Análisis de Situación de Salud (ASIS). Bogotá D.C.

13. Jennifer Gutiérrez and Francly Barbosa. February 16, 2021. Desplazamiento Forzado en Colombia; ¿Qué pasó en 2020?. Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento (CODHES). Source: <https://codhes.wordpress.com/2021/02/16/desplazamiento-forzado-en-colombia-que-paso-en-2020/>

**Figure 10. Recruitment of children and adolescents by armed groups.**



Total  
**79**

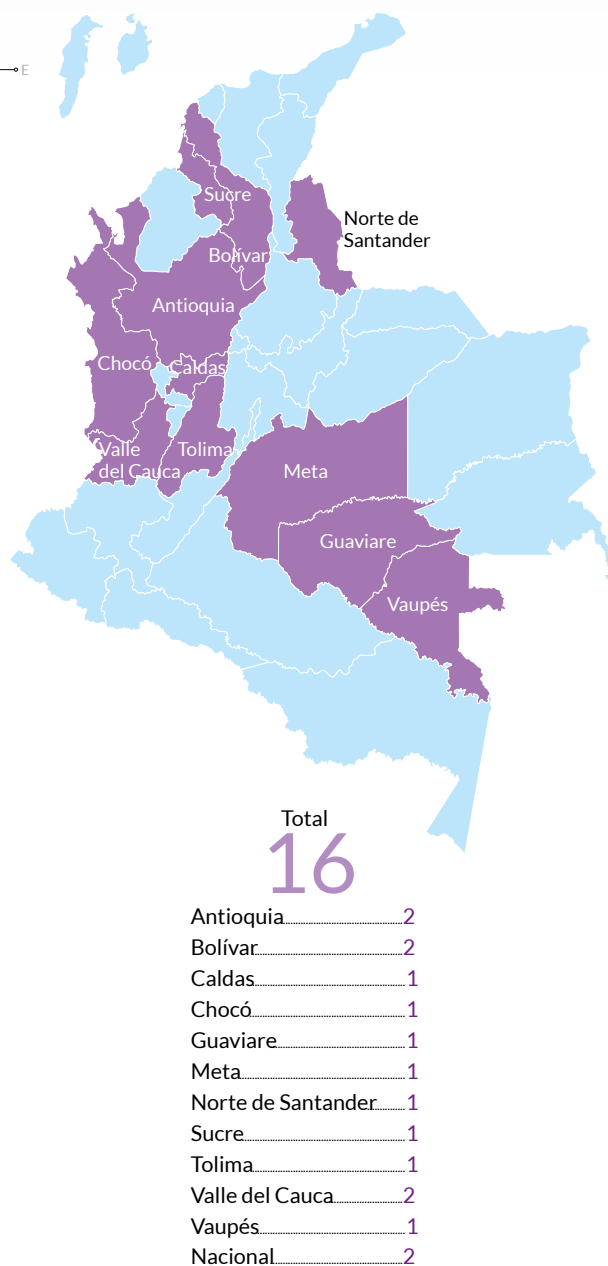
Amazonas.....	<b>1</b>	Meta.....	<b>5</b>
Antioquia.....	<b>16</b>	Nariño.....	<b>7</b>
Arauca.....	<b>3</b>	Norte de Santander.....	<b>4</b>
Bogotá D.C.....	<b>1</b>	Putumayo.....	<b>3</b>
Caldas.....	<b>1</b>	Quindío.....	<b>1</b>
Caquetá.....	<b>4</b>	Risaralda.....	<b>3</b>
Cauca.....	<b>4</b>	Sucre.....	<b>1</b>
Chocó.....	<b>9</b>	Tolima.....	<b>1</b>
Córdoba.....	<b>2</b>	Valle del Cauca.....	<b>7</b>
Cundinamarca.....	<b>2</b>	Vaupés.....	<b>1</b>
Guaviare.....	<b>1</b>	Nacional.....	<b>1</b>
Huila.....	<b>1</b>		

Fuente: Coalico, 2020. Boletín de monitoreo # 24 Niñez y conflicto armado en Colombia enero- diciembre 2020

**Figure 11. Recruitment of children and adolescents by armed groups.**



**Use of children and adolescents in civic-military campaigns.**



Fuente: Coalico, 2020. Boletín de monitoreo # 24 Niñez y conflicto armado en Colombia enero- diciembre 2020

According to the Migration Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs<sup>14</sup>, **in 2020, there were 1,729,537 Venezuelan citizens in Colombia, of which 762,823 were in a regular migratory situation and 966,714 were in an irregular migratory situation. By December 31, 2020, there were more than 404,000 Venezuelan children and adolescents in Colombia. Of these, more than 203,000 were girls and about 201,000 boys**<sup>15</sup>. The majority of Venezuelan migrants were living in

Bogota (337,594), Norte de Santander (187,854), Atlántico (160,736), Antioquia (156,163), La Guajira (149,575) and Santander ( 111,879). Due to the irregular situation of more than 56% of Venezuelan migrants in Colombia, the national government issued the temporary protection statute on February 9, enabling them to receive social and economic services, have access to formal jobs, rent a property and be vaccinated against Covid-19.

14. Migración Colombia (2020). Distribución de venezolanos en Colombia 2020. Page 5

15. Migración Colombia (2020). Colombia ends 2020 with 2.35% fewer Venezuelan migrants in its territory. Source: <https://www.migracioncolombia.gov.co/noticias/colombia-termina-el-2020-con-un-2-35-menos-de-migrantes-venezolanos-en-su-territorio>

## The Law prohibiting the use of physical and humiliating punishment was approved

After a three-year-long process, the Senate plenary approved Bill 320 in March 2021: “Whereby the use of physical punishment, cruel, humiliating or degrading treatment and any type of violence as a method of correction against children and adolescents are prohibited and other provisions are enacted”. This is a major breakthrough in the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents’ rights in Colombia. This law focuses on prevention rather than sanctions and establishes a public policy based on pedagogy and prevention to avoid more violence, inasmuch as it will promote alternatives and practices to educate, guide and discipline without physical punishment. With the norm, Colombia aligns itself with other countries in the region such as Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, that have made progress in love-based parenting.

### Recommendations

#### Protection against all kinds of violence NOW

- Ensure joint work between government institutions, civil society, academia, international cooperation, and others to provide sufficient means of subsistence to the most vulnerable families and properly operate the necessary mechanisms for the comprehensive protection of children, taking into account different aspects such as economic vulnerability, gender, ethnicity, geographic location, disability status, among other situations and/or conditions.
- Accelerate the implementation of public policies for the comprehensive protection of families and children.

#### Early education NOW

- Prioritize effective interventions in the departments with a higher prevalence of malnutrition and Covid-19, including the territories with the highest probability of suffering from food insecurity due to the lack of production or the inability to purchase food. This requires considering the particular needs of population groups according to their age and ethnicity and other characteristics, including disabilities.
- Establish priority strategies for caring for pregnant women during the pandemic as a means to reduce

maternal mortality and its impact on children, and also reduce low birth weight and newborn deaths due to obstetric complications and birth trauma.

- Encourage strategies that maintain child development check-ups and breastfeeding counseling services, considering its role in combating malnutrition and food insecurity.

#### Preschool basic and middle school NOW

- Accelerate efforts to ensure children and adolescents’ return to the school environment. This includes children in early education and children and adolescents in preschool, basic and secondary education.
- Recognize the different and particular effects of climate change on children and adolescents (according to gender, ethnicity, geographic location, disability status, among other situations and/or conditions). This will enable designing efficient, immediate and participatory actions to ensure the best interest of children.
- Promote children and adolescents’ gender-sensitive and differential participation in climate change discussions, and ensure that their perspective is binding for decision-making processes and the definition of efforts and priorities. It is important that children and adolescents are provided with the necessary information that will enable them to participate and make suggestions.

#### Participation NOW

- Guarantee the physical safety of children and adolescents and the protection of their rights in war contexts, through effective measures to prevent forced recruitment and disengage recruited children from the conflict. This implies the need for intersectoral interventions for the implementation of the Policy to Prevent the Recruitment, Use and Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents.
- Apply the temporary protection statute for the Venezuelan migrant population, so that Venezuelan citizens can regularize their situation and access social and economic services, prioritizing migrant children, adolescents and youth.

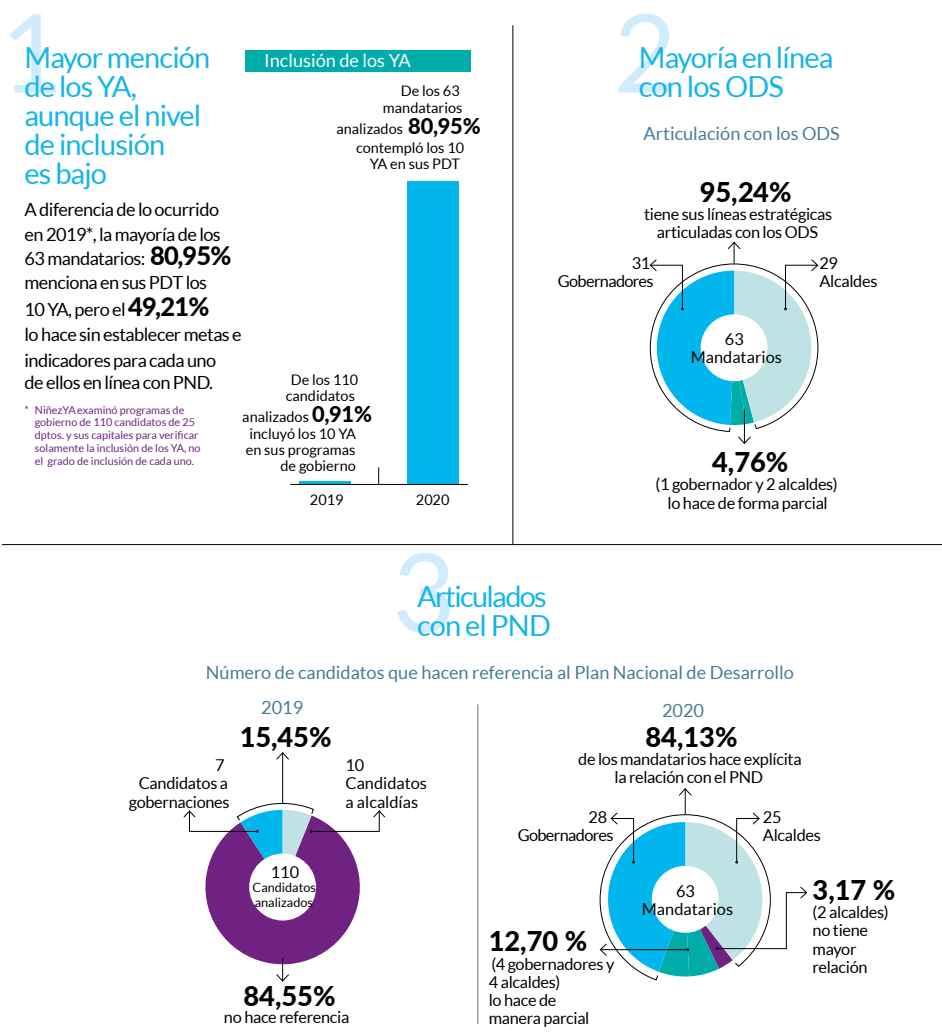
- Adopt the necessary legislative and pedagogical measures to eliminate physical and humiliating punishment, in an effort to ensure children's peace and integral well-being.

## Territorial development plans left children at risk

The Colombian strategy for SDG achievement in Colombia includes local initiatives, since departments, cities and municipalities are the scenarios where development objectives are converted into specific actions. In 2019, NiñezYA reviewed the government programs of 110 candidates for mayors and governors of 25 departments and their capital cities to verify whether they mention the ten urgent issues for children, the "NOWs", regardless of how extensively they were addressed. At that time, only 0.91% of government programs mentioned the ten NOWs. In 2020, NiñezYA went a step further and evaluated the degree of inclusion

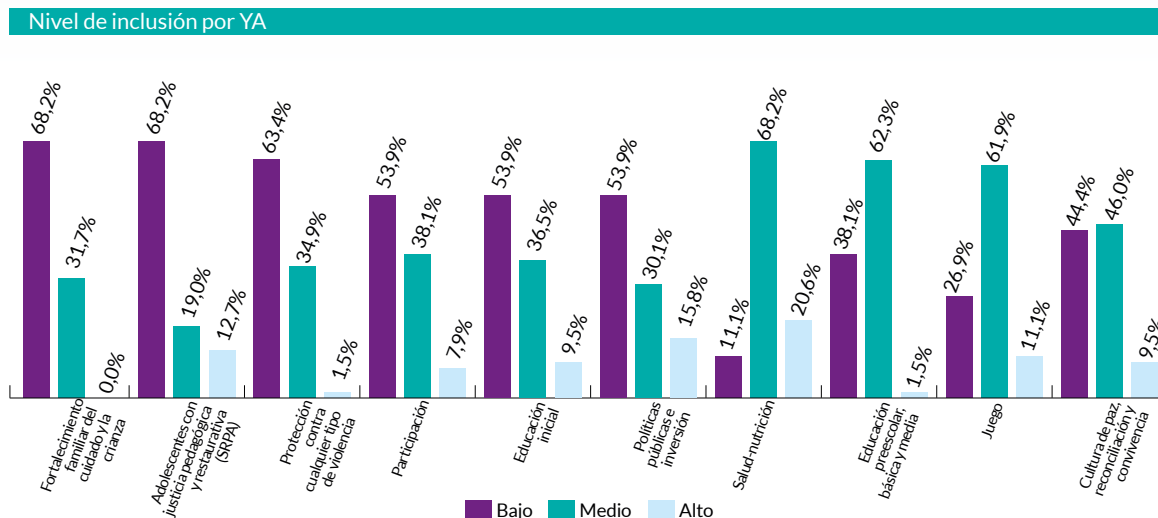
of the NOWs in the Territorial Development Plans (PDT) of 63 territorial entities (32 departments and 31 capital cities; Armenia was missing as it had not been approved). In this case, the criteria differed, as the analysis focused on determining whether the issues were mentioned and also, if there were any associated goals and indicators included in the development plans, and their relation to the National Development Plan (PND) 2018-2022. The exercise showed that of the 63 leaders: 80.95% mention the ten NOWs in their PDT, but 49.21% do so without setting goals and indicators for each NOW, which means that most of the NOWs fall under the "seldom included" category, followed by the "occasionally included". The following NOW issues are seldom included: strengthening families' capacities for parenting and childcare, restorative and pedagogical justice for adolescents (Criminal Responsibility System for Adolescents-SRPA), protection against all kinds of violence, participation, public policies and investment and early education. It is worth noting that most of the PDTs analyzed are in line with the SDGs (95.24% have their strategic lines articulated with the SDGs).

**Figure 12. General results of risks to children.**





**Figure 12. General results of risks to children.**



**NIÑEZYA NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE:**

Alianza por la Niñez Colombiana, Asociación de Banco de Alimentos de Colombia (Abaco), Corporación Juego y Niñez, Fondo Acción, Fundación Barco, Fundación Bernard van Leer, Fundación Empresarios por la Educación (FExE), Fundación Éxito, Fundación FEMSA, Fundación Lumos, Fundación PLAN, Fundación Saldarriaga Concha, Fundación Save the Children, Jerez & Sandoval - Medios y RS, Primero lo Primero, Proantioquia and World Vision.

**NIÑEZYA ANTIOQUIA COORDINATING COMMITTEE:**

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# The SDGs are at risk

NIÑEZYA COLOMBIA'S NATIONAL SDG REPORT  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

JUNE 2021

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