Country: Argentina

Project Name: Early Childhood National Plan (Plan Nacional de Primera Infancia)

Project Reach: National; Sub-National

Project Time Period: 04/2016 - Ongoing

Project Impact areas: Health; Food Security & Nutrition; Security & Safety; Responsive Caregiving; Early Learning & Stimulation; Gender policies with impact on ECD; (Child rearing and development, interfam

Project Funding:

Project Website:

Project Description:

The Early Childhood National Plan was created to guarantee the healthy growth and development of children in a situation of social vulnerability between forty-five (45) days and four (4) years of age, in order to favor the promotion and protection of their rights.

The Plan also defines the following objectives:

a. the promotion and strengthening of care spaces and the integral approach of girls and boys in their early childhood;

b. ensuring adequate and healthy nutrition as well as early stimulation and health promotion;

c. the promotion of conditions for active participation in the family and community that facilitate the process of upbringing and development of children, promoting intra-family and community strengthening.

Based on this, the under-secretariat of Early Childhood designs and carries out the implementation of an Integrated Early Childhood Development Strategy in an inter-ministerial, inter-sectoral manner and with International Cooperation Agencies, in addition to implementing the Early Childhood National Plan.

On the other hand, and starting from a specific agreement between the National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and Family, Under secretariat of Early Childhood and Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA), the Learning at Home Program (HIPPY) is underway, with the aim of promoting a better development of girls and children from 2 to 5 years of age who are at social risk. It also provide tools to the parents & other caregivers to strengthen their potential as educators, and to stimulate & strengthen affective bonds between parents and their children, among others.

For the training of educators of Early Childhood Spaces in 20 provinces, the SSPI signed agreements with six organizations: Community Organization Foundation, Civil Awareness Association, Kaleidos Foundation, Civil Association GES - Educational and Social Management, South Network and Inter-networks. The main training topics that will be carried out by the NGOs in the territory are: positive upbringing; development in early childhood; links and families; initial literacy; game; language; nutrition - poor nutrition; pedagogical proposals, planning and recording of educational practices.
In this sense, and articulation with the National Institute of Technological Education, this year a training course for operators of early childhood was held, with a blended learning methodology, during six classes and six BUENOS AIRES CITY sites and Greater Buenos Aires. In this training proposal, with official certification, workers participated in 139 EPI, with incomplete or complete primary education and incomplete or complete secondary education. They were trained on topics related to the comprehensive development of children, care practices, and pedagogical proposals, among other topics.

For its part, the National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and Family, celebrated a specific cooperation agreement with the CONIN Foundation, and subsequent addenda, for the delivery of scholarships to the children of the 81 Prevention and Human Promotion Centers that work in the prevention of child malnutrition. In addition, training on prevention of malnutrition - malnutrition and child development, are carried out for the Coordinators of Early Childhood Spaces and to the team of cooks of children’s centers, located in the provinces of: Misiones, Jujuy, Salta, Tucumán, Catamarca, Corrientes, La Rioja and Mendoza. Within the framework of this agreement with CONIN, a Nutritional Program was implemented with the objective of reaching 60 Early Childhood Spaces (located in NEA, NOA and Great Buenos Aires).

Governmental organizations are to strengthen and / or open Early Childhood Spaces throughout the national territory, which would reach more than hundred and five thousand boys and girls. The SSPI implements the design, monitoring, technical assistance, strengthening and training of these spaces and their educators, in continuous coordination with the entities and agencies involved.

In addition, the incorporation of around 400 new EPI projects, which will add up to approximately 21 thousand children in the National Plan is expected.

The HIPPY Program will reach 2,400 families from the provinces of the NEA and NOA (Corrientes, Chaco, Jujuy, Misiones, Salta and Santiago del Estero).

In the centers of the CONIN Foundation, there are a monthly average of 5500 to 5800 children from 45 days to 4 years of age living in vulnerable situations and pregnant mothers who live in the communities where these spaces are located.

The Nutritional Program of the CONIN Foundation will reach 60 Early Childhood Spaces (located in NEA, NOA and Buenos Aires).

**Legal Framework:**

a) General Law on Education (Ley General de Educación)

b) Decree that reforms and adds different provisions of the General Law on Education (Decreto por el que se reforman y adicionan diversas disposiciones de la Ley General de Educación) – 03/22/2017.

c) Sector Program for Education (Programa Sectorial de Educación) 2013-2018

**Program Evaluation:**

The Program encourages self-evaluation processes of the Educational Agents.

**Lessons Learned:**

The fundamental role of the Educational Agent who provides their presence and pedagogical support and follow-up during the learning process is essential for generating emotional and affective bonds.