Country: Argentina

Project Name: “Early Years, we accompany the upbringing” (“Primeros Años – Acompañamos la crianza”)

Project Reach: 19 provinces, 202 localities

Project Time Period:

Project Impact areas: Health; Food Security & Nutrition; Security & Safety; Responsive Caregiving; Early Learning & Stimulation; Gender policies with impact on ECD; EDUCATIONAL TERMINALITY AND _ DISABILITY

Project Funding: Period 2016 – 2020. UNDP PROJECT (Arg. 16/015)

Project Website: https://www.argentina.gob.ar/politicassociales/primerosanos

Project Description:

“Early Years, we accompany the upbringing” is a program of National scope with the objective to strengthen the upbringing capacities of families with children from 0 to 4 years of age who live in a situation of poverty and social vulnerability. It aims to generate conditions of opportunity for children to lead a dignified life and for their emotional and cognitive development through providing access to material and cultural goods.

It integrates the Early Childhood National Plan (Decree No. 574, 2016) that places the subject as a priority agenda for public policies. Early Years has as a conceptual and ethical basis in the Rights of Children and Adolescents, which, in Argentina, is expressed in National Law 26.061 / 2005.

b) To achieve the objectives, the Program deploys a set of strategies, which include:

i) visits to families in their own homes,
ii) creation of group spaces for support and accompaniment to the upbringing of the child
iii) training of Facilitators, key agents of work in the territory, and other local social actors (health teams, education, justice, social organizations, among others) involved with Children,
iv) and the production of their on dissemination materials, communications and learnings.

Program Evaluation:

The Program was created in 2005 with the same objective mentioned above, with an emphasis on working with Families in community contexts. As of 2016, the experience of visits to Families is added and Argentina is one of the few countries in Latin America that carries out this experience with a National scope.

Below is a table summarizing the quantitative results achieved to date according to the selected indicators: number of families visited, number of families participating in the support activities and number of children 0-4 years under the Program. The Final Goal projected for 2020 is 140,000 visited (UNDP Project 016/015, with a continuity clause).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>TOTAL ANUAL 2016</th>
<th>TOTAL ANNUAL 2017</th>
<th>AUGUST 2018</th>
<th>2016 TO AUGUST 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families in vulnerable</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34.841</td>
<td>42.079</td>
<td>76.920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>situation visited</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Families participating in support and accompaniment activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>12,000</th>
<th>25,644</th>
<th>24,875</th>
<th>62,519</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Number of children under the Program

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>18,000</th>
<th>90,728</th>
<th>100,431</th>
<th>209,159</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Results Obtained to Date:

- At least 60 local and neighborhood networks integrated by facilitators in favor of children with a gender and intercultural approach.
- Neighborhood leaders (91% women) within native communities trained in Early Childhood Development.
- Creation of "play spaces" (130 to date) in 50 localities and as many neighborhood libraries (with children's books) delivered to the Spaces of Support and Accompaniment to parenting.
- The wide recognition that the Program adheres by Public Policies and is known for its knowledge of the territories and its commitment to children.
- 250 women between 24 and 38 years old finished their primary and secondary schooling.
- 548 Certified Facilitators have in Labor Competencies in Early Childhood Development. In this initiative of First Years, the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security and the National University of Tres de Febrero converge, recognize for the first time the role of the facilitators as work.
- Early Years provides, through training and workshops related to the field of early childhood to the formation and articulation with programs (public, national, and international organizations), their experience and knowledge: Urban Social Integration System (USIS), Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE), Access and adequate use of healthy food and respecting local cultures, Early Childhood Centers Children (ECCC), National Plan of Food Security, National Plan for the Prevention of Unintended Pregnancy in Adolescents, among others.

Results of agreements with international organizations:

- Agreement signed with the IDB for the impact evaluation of the Program during 2019. The objective is to identify the impact of the Program on the adult caregivers through the number of positive interactions (especially among males) with the children of 0 to 4 years.
- Joint Work with FAO for the training of social leaders and community organizations that provide food assistance, school support and containment to children and adolescents in border towns. The subjects taught are those that address Early Years, including: Reading, very first readers, "storytelling", games and toys, nutrition, interculturality, identity and gender.
- Exchange of experiences with Brazil regarding the Childhood Programs: Happy Parenting and Early Years. Argentine Fund for South - South Cooperation.

Legal framework:

- It integrates the National Early Childhood Plan (Decree No. 574, 2016)
- Based in National Law 26.061 / 2005