

"Let us see ourselves  
more as the fathers of  
our future than as the  
sons of our past"

Miguel de Unamuno

# Reform Times in Uruguay



Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en Uruguay  
UNIDOS EN LA ACCIÓN

A monthly newsletter with news, data and events of the "Delivering as One" process in Uruguay

## Hundreds of youth celebrate Volunteer Helping others with enthusiasm

*Volunteering has become a powerful tool in Uruguay for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). With the support of the UN System, the 10<sup>th</sup> observance of the Global Day for Youth Volunteer Service focused on the MDG. The meeting, held on 25 April in Montevideo city, was organized by a network of civil society organizations and supported by the National Youth Institute (INJU).*

More than 1,300 youth participated in the activities of the Global Day for Youth Volunteer Service. In 25 Points of Montevideo there was a common thematic: the MDG. The participants carried out repairs in education and community centers, recovery of public spaces, recreational activities, sensitization about obstacles for disabled people, campaigns for child rights and sexual and reproductive rights, environmental education activities, among others. In the afternoon, participants gathered at the Rural Space in El Prado to hold workshops about youth issues, closing the event with artistic and cultural activities.

Coordinated by the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), a tour was organized to visit some sites of volunteer service and to put together an audiovisual registry of the events. The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) supported the organization of workshops on gender equality, sexual and reproductive rights and HIV/AIDS prevention. In addition, with UNFPA support, the Public Health Ministry donated 14,000 condoms for distribution during the event. Also, the UN Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO), donated books and other materials to the education centers benefited by the activities. On 9 May, a second round of activities for the Global Day for Youth Volunteer Service was held in several Uruguayan departments with full support of the UN System. The events reiterated the importance of the principles of participation, solidarity and strengthening of social and civil society networks. Based on these principles, volunteering has proved to be a powerful tool for the UN System as a whole to work towards sustainable and lasting social change. ■

Picture: Gabriel Rousserie



Young hands eager to help

## A permanent challenge

### Technical instruments for child protection

*The System of Childhood and Adolescence Protection against Violence (SIPIAV), an inter-institutional strategy to tackle child abuse, held an assessment of its performance in the period May 2007-December 2008. According to the report, presented on the International Day against Child Abuse, violence against girls, boys and adolescents affects nearly 50 per cent of homes.*

Through this System, different actors detect, refer, treat and carry out a follow up in collaboration with civil society organizations of all cases of child abuse. In the reported period, the SIPIAV assisted 359 children and adolescents from 268 families from Montevideo and Canelones.

According to the survey, physical and emotional abuse affect a higher percentage of males, while sexual abuse is more frequent against female. Most victims suffer more than one type of violence simultaneously. From the total number of girls, boys and adolescents, emotional mistreatment is suffered by 80 per cent, while 42 per cent have experienced physical mistreatment, 33 per cent sexual abuse, 1 per cent sexual and commercial exploitation, and 1 per cent has experienced patrimonial violence (meaning the disposal of assets and belongings of others without consent).

Among those suffering physical violence, 57,6 per cent are male. Most of those experiencing emotional mistreatment are also male: 53,7 per cent. Girls, however, suffer most abuse (68,6 per cent) and are in the majority among victims of sexual exploitation for commercial purposes (66,7%) and among those experiencing patrimonial violence (75%).

The results of the report are encouraging as regards sexual violence: 93,9 per cent have stopped. Regarding children experiencing physical violence, 57,5 per cent don't suffer from it anymore. However, emotional violence stopped in just 17,7 per cent of the situations.

The SIPIAV is implemented by the Uruguayan Institute for Child and Adolescent (INAU), the Social Development Ministry (MIDES), the Public Health Ministry (MSP), the Interior Ministry (MI) and the National Administration of Public Education (ANEP), with the support of UNICEF and of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). ■

It represents 49 per cent of total work hours

## Unpaid work: a new invisible hand?

*The importance of unpaid work, done by families and in particular by women, for the social wellbeing of Uruguay was among the main topics considered by the international seminar: “The invisible bases of social wellbeing. Unpaid work in Uruguay”, held in Montevideo on 16 and 17 April.*

In the seminar, which was named after a publication which was launched during the event, data on the unequal distribution of unpaid work between men and women was presented, as follows: men dedicate on average 15, 7 hours per week to unpaid work, while women spend 36,3 hours. Furthermore, 50% of women dedicate more than 31 hours per week, as compared to 12% of men in the same situation.

According to the National Institute of Statistics (INE), in Uruguay unpaid work amounts to 49% of work hours (total number of hours dedicated to remunerated and unremunerated work) in the population of 14 years and older, based on a module concerning the Use of Time and Unpaid Work (2007). Moreover, it is estimated that this constitutes between 26% and a 30% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Maternity financial loans, universal public services for childcare, dependants, and home care are some of the possible public policies contemplated by the publication with the aim of implementing “co-responsibility between families – State –market”, that takes into account the “the right to take care and to be taken care of”.

The seminar was organized as part of the joint work being developed since 2006 by the following institutions: INE, INMUJERES, the Department of Sociology of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of the Republic, and UNIFEM. The seminar also had the support of UNFPA, AECID and ECLAC. ■



Diego Piñeyro, Dean of Social Sciences; Alicia Melgar, INE's Director; Mariana González, UNIFEM Country Programme Coordinator in Uruguay; Ana Falú, UNIFEM Regional Director and Carmen Beramendi, INMUJERES Director

***“I am determined to ensure that the United Nations can serve not only as an effective instrument of service for humankind, but as an agent of the transformation that the world needs to weather these troubled times.”***

*UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, at the Princeton Colloquium on Public and International Affairs: “The imperative of a new multilateralism”.*

### Joint Projects: letter by letter

#### Project D

**“Design and implementation of pilot projects that promote development throughout the country ”**

**Project products:** Strengthen the state and social capacities to promote development in Departments of the interior for achieving the MDGs. Contribute to the national priority or reducing the poverty levels that have increased recently in Uruguay.

**Participating Agencies:** Executing Agencies: FAO, ILO, UNDP and UNICEF. Associated Agencies: CEPAL, IFAD, PAHO/WHO, UNAIDS, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, and UNIFEM.

**National implementing associates:** Social Development Ministry (MIDES); Livestock, Agriculture and Fishing Ministry (MGAP); Public Health Ministry (MSP); Work and Social Security Ministry (MTSS); Housing, Territorial Organization and Environment Ministry (MVOTMA); Florida Municipality Council (IMF); Durazno Municipality Council (IMD); Canelones Municipality Council (IMC); Montevideo Municipality Council (IMM); Office of Planning and Budget (OPP); National Administration of Public Education (ANEP); Social Prevision Bank (BPS); National Institute of Statistics (INE); and the University of the Republic (UDELAR).

**Budget (2008-2010):** USD 1.334.611 ■



**Project D – Component 3: MDG – IMM – UNICEF**

Strengthening capacities for the monitoring and achievement of the MDGs with emphasis on maternal health, child development and turning primary education universal in impoverished areas of Montevideo.

New Generations Camp: 48 children between the ages of 12 and 14, coming from 7 Uruguayan cities, participated in this camp, which was based on the MDGs related to *nutrition, puberty and its changes*. Information guides, CDs and websites were elaborated for this activity. ■

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