



## Learning about HIV with “1x100” A life story from Paraguay

Ricardo Gabriel (Gabo) is a seventeen-year-old Paraguayan adolescent who lives on the Paraguayan side of the Argentina-Brazil-Paraguay triple border (in Ciudad del Este).

For over a year, Gabo has been one of the leaders of his community who orient and train other adolescents around HIV prevention.

From practicing sports, studying and having fun like any other adolescent of his age, Gabo transformed his life, giving a different meaning to his relationships with his peers. Today, Gabo continues with his normal activities, taking advantage of all possible spaces to provide information on HIV and on the importance of not discriminating because of gender, serological status or sexual orientation.

Gabo is one of the fifty adolescents who received training in their community to be an agent of multiple change for HIV prevention. As part of the 1x100 project, he learned about HIV and was trained to perform motivational group sessions, behaviour-change and peer communication activities.



“Thanks to 1x100, I now feel more important, more self-assured, more useful. I have the opportunity to meet many people and to be able to make a difference. That makes me feel enthusiastic and makes me feel very happy. I think that the other adolescents who are in the project can say the same,” Ricardo Gabriel Álvarez (Gabo) tells us as part of his life experience.

“As an adolescent, I feel useful to others ... I have been able to interact with a thousand boys and girls of my age, even with older people. This is great! I have given a different meaning to my life and I feel very happy because in my community, people are not used to speaking about subjects related to sexuality or HIV. Now, the majority of people have information and their attitudes are quite different,” says Gabo, smiling at a television reporter.

Like his fellow trainees, Gabo never stops working in his community. He organises learning groups, visits schools, speaks with students and teachers, and is constantly interviewed on the radio or the television to speak about discrimination, gender, HIV/AIDS and human rights.

Gabo and his group have now created the Red Nacional de Adolescentes Voluntarios en Prevención (National Network of Adolescent Prevention Volunteers), which is actively working in four regional departments - Alto Paraná, Concepción, Misiones and Paraguari.



Gabo was invited to participate in the workshops on public policies for sexual education and HIV prevention within the school-system, as part of the joint project implemented by GTZ, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Secretariat for Children and the Network of Paraguayan NGOs.

Plan International Paraguay selected Gabo to participate in the World Forum on HIV/AIDS in Mexico in order to recount his experience with the 1x100 project and the Amo la Vida (I Love Life) coalition.

## Coalición “Amo la Vida” sigue capacitando jóvenes en la región

**UN GRUPO DE 20 JÓVENES**, integrantes de la coalición “Amo la Vida” está trabajando en la reserva biológica de Tati Yupi donde se desarrolla un encuentro internacional de Boys scouts. La ocasión es propiciada para la difusión del programa de prevención, capacitación sobre el Sida en el marco del plan denominado “1 x 100”.

La intención de cada joven es de llegar a otras 100 personas como manda el programa que concluye a fines de febrero. Los mismos estarán trabajando en la reserva biológica hasta el domingo capacitándolos sobre la prevención del VIH, formas de contagios, buscando romper tabúes sobre el tema, entre otros aspectos que se relacionan al caso.

Los jóvenes capacitadores pasaron por un proceso de orientación sobre el tema con profesionales de la Secretaría Nacional de la Niñez y la Adolescencia (SNNA), la ONG Adra y la UNICEF. Los mismos deben trabajar en los 4 municipios de cabecera (Ciudad del Este, Hernandarias, Presidente Franco y Minga



**Los jóvenes capacitadores del proyecto “1 x 100” en plena tarea dentro del campamento en la reserva biológica, en Hernandarias.**

Guazú) con la meta de transmitir la información a unas 5 mil personas.

Según manifestaron los jóvenes que están trabajando con los scouts, ya estarían superando esa barrera porque han encontrado muy buena receptividad de las personas en todos los lugares que recorrieron, donde además entregan materiales informativos y un certificado para cada persona capacitada.

Se pudo notar, según las jóvenes, que hay mucho desconocimiento del tema Sida, muchos creen que el contagio se da por un simple abrazo y eso fomenta la discriminación, pero con la tarea emprendida por “Amo la Vida”, el panorama se ve clarificado para esas personas que están incluidas en el proyecto.

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