

## NEWS REPORT

### FLOODINGS IN URUGUAY UNICEF VISITS AFFECTED ZONES



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Montevideo, December 2, 2009. - UNICEF visited yesterday the zones affected by the flooding in the provinces of Salto and Paysandú.

In the framework of the actions coordinated by UNICEF in partnership with the National Emergency System, during their visit, UNICEF technicians met with the city Mayor Mr. Ramón Fonticiella and the coordinator of the provincial Emergency Committee, Walter Malet in Salto, and with the representatives of the provincial Emergency Department and the local authorities in Paysandú.

Yesterday, the delegation visited the shelters where the families evacuated from their homes are staying, and assessed the situation of boys and girls jointly with the local authorities.

It is important for UNICEF to highlight the high level of coordination of the different sectors in addressing the needs of the families and children affected by the floods.

After this visit, UNICEF has concluded that although the situation is worrying, mainly due to the meteorological forecasts and the water levels recorded, the authorities are alert and ready to provide appropriate responses.

In Salto, the evacuated families are provided with food, drinking water and sewage, and receive daily medical screenings. At the time of the visit, no outbreak of diarrhea or other infectious diseases had been detected. Boys and girls attend school normally and the shelters have been adapted to accommodate the entire family groups.

Also in Paysandú, medical services are provided on a daily basis and, at the time of the visit, no outbreak of infectious diseases had been detected. In relation to education, there have been some problems with the continuity of the classes because one educational centre was affected by water. The conditions of food and water supply, sewage and hygiene are favourable.

The authorities of both provinces requested UNICEF to collaborate by providing psychosocial support to children and adolescents, as well as educational materials for everyday use.

In the coming days UNICEF will visit the affected areas again and continue with the fund raising campaign to contribute to the specific needs of children and families that had to leave their homes. This campaign has already received the support of both individuals and companies.