

## Uruguay: The right to an identity Campaign in schools



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## **URUGUAY: THE RIGHT TO AN IDENTITY, CAMPAIGN IN SCHOOLS**

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE - NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF CIVIL  
REGISTRATION

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR – NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF CIVIL IDENTIFICATION

UNICEF URUGUAY

### **1. Background**

The Right to an Identity is derived from the inherent dignity of the human being, it belongs to every single person without the slightest discrimination and it is the State's obligation to guarantee it. According to article 7 on the right to a name and a nationality and to article 8 on the right to an identity of the Convention of the Rights of the Child ratified by Uruguay: *States Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law without unlawful interference.*

Assuming this responsibility, starting 2005, the Ministry of Social Development and UNICEF have promoted the implementation of the "Right to Identity Campaign in the community". This campaign implied an important experience in the interinstitutional coordination between public organizations and civil society. This commitment made possible the raising of public awareness on the matter and the strengthening of the public, private and community networks.

In July 2006 the National Institute of Statistics published a thematic report on the coverage of the identity card<sup>1</sup>. 84, 6% of the population under 5 years old has an identity card and an estimated number of 47.000 citizens over 5 years old do not have any kind of identification. In 2003 UNICEF made a qualitative research that showed that children most affected with identity problems come from low income sectors.

One of the main obstacles to have access to the Civil Registration and Civil Identification services is the historic centralization of registry bureaus, despite the recent efforts to install new services in small towns in the interior of the country.

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<sup>1</sup> The registration of a child's birth enables the child to obtain an identity card. The identity card is a requirement for the access to many social benefits like education, health and social subsidies for the families.

In this sense, the investigation carried out by UNICEF showed that public schools in poor cultural contexts are the best scenarios to regularize situations of absence of registry or wrong registry. This is due to the following reasons:

- Almost 100% of Uruguayan children attend to primary school; public education system is widely spread over the whole territory, teachers know the situation of children and their families, and therefore, they are an important partner for this work.
- For these reasons, the project will be developed in urban and rural public schools involving children and their communities. Priority will be given to those public schools placed in very poor settings where most children and their families live in poverty.
- Registration and Identification Mobile Units will be used in order to have the necessary documentation to carry out the official registration procedure at schools.
- This proposal is aligned with the general conclusions, recommendations and the national priorities established by the Uruguayan delegation to the First Latin American Conference on the Right to an Identity and Universal Birth Registration that took place in Asunción, Paraguay in August 2007 organized by OAS, Plan International and UNICEF. All participating countries subscribed the goal of achieving universal birth registration for the year 2015.
- In order to achieve this goal, the Uruguayan delegation established as one of their main priorities the decentralization of the Civil Registry Offices with citizen participation, especially in the peripheral suburbs of urban and rural areas.

## **2. General Objective:**

To develop an innovative, integral, coordinated, decentralized and participatory campaign to guarantee the right to an identity to children and their families.

## **3. Specific Objectives:**

- a. To strengthen the capacity of decentralized public offices to guarantee the Right to an Identity through the correct procedure of registration and the supply of identity papers.
- b. To promote an integral view about the Right to an Identity among the staff of 30 schools of poor settings in 10 departments of the country.

- c. To facilitate registration and provide identification papers in 46 schools of poor settings through the simultaneous development of socio-cultural activities.

#### 4. **Activities**

- 3 training workshops with departmental authorities of the Ministry of Social Development and the National Administration of Civil Registration and Identification for the development of a campaign work plan.
- 10 Municipal training cycles for teachers and technical staff of the selected schools, to raise awareness and promote the Right to Identity. (Montevideo, Canelones, Maldonado, Treinta y Tres, Rivera, Cerro Largo, Rocha, Lavalleja, Paysandú y Salto).
- 30 socio-cultural activities of registration and identification in schools of poor settings.

#### 5. **Methodology**

The project will be implemented through a group of complementary strategies to strengthen actions carried out since 2005:

- **INTERINSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION** of public and private institutions through the constitution of a municipal coordination committee formed by representatives of the National Administration of Civil Identification, Civil Registration, National Administration of Public Education, Ministry of Social Education and social organizations, to design preventive actions regarding irregularities in identity documents and strategies to promote the Right to Identity in the selected schools of adverse context.
- **PROVISION OF IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS**
- **DISSEMINATION OF THE CODE OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS.**
- **AWARENESS AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES** for teachers and technical staff in schools of poor settings about the Right to Identity in its multiple dimensions (gender, ethnic group, age groups, culture), Convention on the Child Rights and Code on Children and Adolescents.
- **ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE THE RIGHT TO AN IDENTITY IN SCHOOLS** that include not only the most relevant dimensions prioritized by the teaching team, but also the dimensions of gender and personal and collective identities of the ethnic groups. This will also involve families and community participation.

## 6. **Expected results:**

- 30 schools and their staff empowered and active in the concepts and implication of the Right to an Identity in the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Children and Adolescents Code.
- Identity Documents provided to 6.000 children and their families.
- Civil Registration offices strengthened by mobile units that will carry out communitarian activities.

A workplan developed to strengthen the interinstitutional network formed by the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Social development and National Administration of Public Education.

## 7. **Budget:**

The estimated cost for the implementation of the project is USD\$104.800.

## 8. **Monitoring and evaluation**

Overall objective	Specific Objectives	Expected Result
To develop an innovative, integral, coordinated, decentralized and participatory campaign to guarantee the right to identity to children and their families	To strengthen the capacity of decentralized public offices to guarantee the Right to an Identity through the correct procedure of registration and the supply of identity papers	Civil Registration offices strengthened by mobile units that will carry out communitarian activities.  A workplan developed to strengthen the interinstitutional network formed by the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Social development and National Administration of Public Education

	To promote an integral view about the Right to an Identity among the staff of 30 schools of poor settings in 10 departments of the country.	30 schools and their staff empowered and active in the concepts and implication of the Right to an Identity in the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Children and Adolescents Code.
	To facilitate registration and provide identification papers in 46 schools of poor settings through the simultaneous development of socio-cultural activities	Identity Documents provided to 6.000 children and their families

UNICEF will pursue the implementation of the project. In addition, the Ministry of Social Development will present an advance report every 3 months and a final report with the concrete specified results.

### ANNEX 1: VAN EQUIPMENT DETAILS

Quantity	Description
1 (one)	Server
3 (three)	Personal Computer
2 (two)	Laser Printer
2 (two)	Digital Camera
2 (two)	Inkjet Printer
1 (one)	ID and Passport Digitizer
1 (one)	UPS
1 (one)	Switch (8 ports)
1 (one)	Laminator
	Data and electric installations' adaptation