

# Your place in Law

January 2008 – December 2009



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## 1. Summary

The Project aims to assure that girls, boys and adolescents who are victim of violence, maltreatment and sexual abuse can count with the help of an institution specialized on the defense and promotion of rights, to give them advice and undertake their defense.

The project is carried out by lawyers specialized in children's rights from the NGO IACi in collaboration with UNICEF.

The period of the project would be from January to December 2008.

Budget: 30.460 U\$S

## 2. UNICEF in Uruguay

UNICEF has been operating in Uruguay for 14 years to assist the country to fulfill the commitments assumed when ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), in 1990.

From 1992 UNICEF aims to guarantee the development and the well-being of the childhood and the adolescence. This effort is made together with the government, the nongovernmental organizations and the civil society. UNICEF cooperates by offering the technical advice and financial support.

With all its actions, UNICEF tries to mobilize resources and the political will to cooperate with the country in giving priority to the children and creating the capacity to establish appropriate policies and services for them and their families.

This cooperation is made with funds originating from the governments who integrate with the system of United Nations and other funds collected from donations together with the sales of cards and products of UNICEF within the country.

The series of work of UNICEF in Uruguay are defined in the Program of Cooperation which is signed by the government every 3 or 5 years. The program of 2005-2009 is in its action now.

## 3. Background

In Uruguay, the social problem of child abuse and maltreatment has until recently not been considered a public issue. Although a study made by UNICEF in 1999 indicated that 34 percent of girls and 43 percent of boys said they had suffered some kind of violence, there is very little information on the magnitude of the problem. The number of cases reported also confirms the importance of the issue. Uruguay does not have an integrated public policy aimed at eradicating and attending child abuse, and the response offered is, in most cases, fragmented and lacking clear objectives, routines and consistency. As a result, children that are victims of violence and abuse undergo a complex series of repeated procedures in the different institutions of the system, which increase the

suffering caused by the abuse and which do not secure their rights to be treated as subjects. The way, in which the report on the situations of maltreatment or sexual abuse is made in most of the cases, imply the violation of the child's right to receive information and decide on the issues affecting him or her. As a consequence, the child's distrust towards the adult world increases and, in return, it receives a partial solution of emergency character in a situation that affects every aspect of his or her life.

#### **4. Project description**

IACI works in collaboration with UNICEF since 2001 in a project covering the legal advice and assistance to children with vulnerable rights. The main object of this program is to assure that girls, boys and adolescent children who are victim of violence and maltreatment can count on the help of an institution especially dedicated to the defense and promotion of rights to give them advice and undertake their defense.

After years of work in the defense of children with vulnerable rights, IACI and UNICEF believe it most necessary to keep the project working because there do not exist state lawyers specially prepared to deal with this kind of problem.

#### **General objective**

- To assure that girls, boys and adolescent children who are victim of violence and maltreatment can count with specialized protection in legal procedures.

#### **Project objectives**

- Increase the number of children receiving de legal assistance of lawyers specialized in children rights.
- Increase the number of children receiving de legal advice of lawyers specialized in children rights.

#### **Indicators of achievement**

- Number of children and adolescents who has received legal advice to their situations has been increased.
- Number of children and adolescents who has received legal assistance to their situations has been increased.

#### **Activities**

- Legal advice and legal assistance

### Timetable of the project

Activities	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Ma y	Jun e	Jul y	Aug	Sep	Oct	No v	Dec
Legal assistance	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Legal advice	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

### 5. Budget

The estimated cost of the implementation of the project is USD\$62.000.