



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

Investment in Children in Latin America and the Caribbean

A strategy to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs

13-14 March 2019

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic



MEPyD
MINISTERIO DE ECONOMÍA, PLANEACIÓN Y DESARROLLO



DIGEPRES
Dirección General de Presupuesto

unicef 

Venue: El Embajador Hotel

DAY 1

8:30 – 9:00

Participants Registration

9:00 – 10:00

Seminar Opening Ceremony

Speeches:

- Isidoro Santana, Minister of Economy, Planning and Development
- Luis Reyes Santos, Viceminister of Budget, Patrimony and Accounting of the Dominican Republic
- Kenia Lora, Executive Director of the National Council for Children and Adolescents of the Dominican Republic
- Rosa Elcarte, UNICEF Representative in the Dominican Republic

Mastery of ceremonies: Jatnna Tavárez, UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador

10:00 – 10:45 **Keynote Speech**

“Economic context of Latin America and the Caribbean: economic growth, fiscal space and expectations for 2019” – Alonso Segura Vasi, Ex-Minister of Economy and Finance of Peru, Founding Partner of HACER PERÚ, Professor of Economics at PUCP

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee Break

SESSION I. POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS AND TRANSMISSION CHANNELS OF THE CURRENT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT ON INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND ON THEIR FINANCING ALTERNATIVES

11:00 – 11:30 **Opening conference of Session I.**

The National Development Strategy, investment in children and adolescents and the Sustainable Development Goals – Yván Rodríguez, Vice Minister of Planning, Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic

11:30 – 13:00 **Panel 1.1. Social investment in children in the region. Trends, effectiveness and challenges**

- **Commitment to equity for children** – José Cuesta, Senior Economist, Poverty Global Practice, World Bank
- **How equity and universality can improve financing of public investments in children** – Alex Yuster, Associate Director on Social Inclusion and Public Policy, Programme Division, UNICEF HQ
- **Early childhood expenditure in the Dominican Republic: realities, effectiveness analysis and trends** – Ayacx Mercedes, Deputy Director of the General Directorate of Special Programs of the Ministry of the Presidency, Dominican Republic
- Questions and answers

Moderator: Roberto Liz, General Director of Economic and Social Development of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development (MEPyD), Dominican Republic

13:00 – 14:15 Lunch
(Security briefing by UNDSS during the break with international participants)

14:15 – 15:45 **Panel 1.2. Alternatives of financing for public investment in childhood and adolescence for the achievement of the SDGs**

- **Social spending in children and adolescents in European and Latin American countries. An analysis in comparative perspective** – Fernando Filgueira, UNICEF Regional Consultant / Principal Investigator of the Social Protection Program of CIPPEC, Argentina
- **Public-private partnerships as alternatives for financing public projects** – Jean Philippe Pening, Advisor in Municipality of Bogotá, Colombia

- **Social Impact Bonds in Latin America** - Zachary Levey, Executive Director of Levoca Impact Labs
- Questions and Answers

Moderator: José Luis Actis, Advisor to the Minister of Finance at the Dominican Republic

16:00 – 17:30

Simultaneous discussion session on country experiences:

This methodology seeks to generate a dialogue in a comparative way into the keys to success, lessons learned and challenges of the different countries' experiences participating in the Seminar, around two topics:

a) Methodologies and institutionalization of the measurement of public investment in children at national and subnational level

Session 1:

- **Luciana Díaz-Frers**, Director, National Directorate of Tax and Income Policy, Ministry of Finance, Argentina
- **Gabriel González-Bueno**, Child Policy Specialist, UNICEF National Committee, Spain
- **Aida Cristina Quintanilla Lara**, Head of Dept. Analysis and Investigation of Financial Administration and Public Production, Guatemala
- **Mercedes Carrasco**, Advisor to the General Budget Office, Ministry of Finance, Dominican Republic

Session 2:

- **Jaime Durán Chuquimia**, Vice Minister of Budget and Fiscal Accounting, Ministry of Economy and Public Finance, Bolivia
- **Yoly Colindres**, Systems Analyst at the Directorate for Children, Adolescence and Family, Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion, Honduras
- **Ana María Guemez**, Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF, Peru
- **Karine Tomaz**, Auditor of the Laboratory of Public Policy, Public Ministry of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

b) Processes to improve the quality of public spending on children from different angles such effectiveness, efficiency of public expenditure in children and also on transparency and participation in the budget cycle.

- **Carlos Calderón**, Oficial de Políticas Sociales de UNICEF, Peru
- **Jair López**, Analyst of the Technical Office of the Social Sector, Secretariat of Government General Coordination, Honduras
- **Guillermo Valentino**, Director, Budget Evaluation Office, National Budget Office, Ministry of Finance, Argentina
- **Marcelo Ventós**, Member of the Working Group on Investment and part of the Asociación de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales orientadas al Desarrollo (ANONG, Uruguay), Redlamyc

The total of participants will be divided into 2 subgroups of approximately 60 people, and each subgroup in a different room¹. In each simultaneous discussion, 5 country experiences on one of the two mentioned topics will be

¹ On the badge that was provided during registration you will see written the letter A or B. If the letter A is on your badge you should go to the room where Conversatory A will take place; and if the letter B is on your badge, you should go to Conversatory B.

presented and discussed. Each discussion will last 60 minutes and, when finished, presenters will change from one room to another, while participants will remain in their assigned room. In this way, participants will be able to listen to the discussions on both topics.

17:30 – 17:45

Closing session and general summary of the works of the day

(*Organizing Team: UNICEF, MEPyD, DIGEPRES*)

DAY 2

SESSION II. TOWARDS THE STRENGTHENING OF SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THE REGION AS AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO CONTEXTS OF FRAGILITY AND DISPLACEMENT

8:30 – 10:15

Panel 2.1 Investment in social protection as a national development strategy

- **Social protection that prioritizes children: the experience of the Dominican Republic** – Altagracia Suriel, CEO “Progresando con Solidaridad (PROSOLI)” Programme, Vice Presidency of the Dominican Republic
- **Towards a Universal Child Benefit in Brazil: What Needs to be Done and What can be Expected?** – Sergei Soares, Researcher, Applied Economic Research Institute (Ipea), Brazil.
- **Towards a social protection floor, emphasizing investments in children** – Ms. Judith Alpuche, CEO, Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation, Belize
- Questions and Answers

Moderator: Mónica Rubio, Regional Adviser on Social Policies at UNICEF

10:15 – 10:30

Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:15

Panel 2.2 Public investment in health and education, universal coverage and the transition to quality

- **Reforms to the health system to achieve universality. The Peruvian experience** – Midori de Habich, Former Minister of Health of Peru
- **Universal health system: coverage and financing challenges in Mexico** – Héctor Villarreal Páez – Director General, Economic and Budgetary Research Center, Mexico
- **What is and is not useful to reduce high school dropouts? A review of interventions from the evidence** – Rafael de Hoyos, Lead Economist, World Bank
- **Investment trends in public education in the Dominican Republic** – David Lapaix Ávila, Director of Financial Programming and Economic Studies, Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic

- Questions and Answers

Moderator: Jaime Durán Chuquimia, Vice Minister of Budget and Fiscal Accounting, Ministry of Economy and Public Finance, Bolivia

12:15 – 13:30

Lunch

13:30 – 15:30

Panel 2.3. Public investment in protection against violence in childhood, a Latin American and Caribbean debt

- **Analysis and costing of early childhood protection policies against violence**
– Javier Curcio, FCE-UBA researcher and international consultant in public finances for children.
- **Discussion:**
 - Berenice Cordero Molina, Minister of Economic and Social Inclusion, Ecuador
 - Kenya Lora, Executive Director of the National Council for Children and Adolescents in Dominican Republic
 - Elsy Alcalá, Partner in GEA, Mexico

Under a panel discussion, the objective of this session is to discuss the technical, political and administrative challenges regarding public investment in child protection. The preliminary results of the study Analysis and costing of early childhood protection policies against violence, will serve as a framework for debate in the panel.

Moderator: Fabián Repetto, Director of Strategic Planning at Center for the Implementation of Public Policies for Equity and Growth (CIPPEC), Argentina.

15:30 – 16:15

Closing of the Seminar

- Isidoro Santana, Minister of Economy, Planning and Development, Dominican Republic
- Rosa Elcarte, UNICEF Representative in the Dominican Republic

16:15 – 16:45

Group picture and snacks