



Fighting under-nutrition in Paraguay: WFP's Partnership with The Chilean International Cooperation Agency



Practical Experience from WFP's work on South-South and Trilateral Cooperation

Background

Over the past 20 years, the Latin America and Caribbean region has witnessed significant reductions in the prevalence of undernourishment and the number of people affected. Despite overall growth, marked differences exist within the countries, in income distribution and access to social protection programmes. Large segments of the population are still suffering from food insecurity and chronic under-nutrition. Several Latin American countries are working to overcome these challenges.

Chile has one of the lowest child under-nutrition rates in Latin America, partly due to well-coordinated public health and social protection policies.



Between 1960 and 2000, the prevalence of under-nutrition was reduced from 37 to 2.9 percent for children under six years. Today the country has achieved a virtual eradication of child under-nutrition (1.8).

WFP Cooperation with the Chilean International Cooperation Agency (AGCI)



WFP is working with Chile to share its experiences and expertise in nutrition with other countries in Latin America. The Chilean International Cooperation Agency (AGCI) created in

1990, contributes to the achievement of Chile's foreign policy goals by promoting "horizontal" and triangular cooperation with institutions and countries in the region. AGCI engages in triangular cooperation with various international partners in diverse areas, including food security and nutrition.



The South-South Opportunity

The National Assistance Programme on Food and Nutrition (PROAN) of Paraguay expressed interest in implementing a series of public policies based on the experiences and lessons learned of Chile. As a response, throughout 2010 and 2011, the Chilean International Cooperation Agency (AGCI) and the Chilean Ministry of Health, supported by WFP, collaborated with Paraguay to define measures to enhance food security and nutrition.

South-South Cooperation in action:

The cooperation focused on three objectives:

- 1) **Formulation of an Integrated Nutrition Policy**, to articulate all nutrition-based programmes into one framework and to identify a central coordinating body for the monitoring of programmes.
- 2) **Capacity strengthening** for technical and professional staff to implement the upcoming policy.
- 3) **Development of an implementation strategy** to reach people suffering from under-nutrition at the community level. A specific focus of the strategy is the prevention of stunting and improved child nutrition.

The results

What has happened?

With the support from Chile, Paraguay developed an Integrated Nutrition Policy with a purpose to end child under-nutrition. The cooperation between the Chilean International Cooperation Agency (AGCI), WFP and Paraguay led to the restructuring of Paraguay's National Assistance Programme on Food and Nutrition and its integration into the National Institute for Food and Nutrition (INAN), at the Ministry of Health.

How many people have benefitted from this initiative in practice?

Starting in 2009, the number of beneficiaries covered by the Integrated Food and Nutrition Programme progressively increased from 35,610 (28,831 children, 6,779 pregnant woman) to 59,362 (48,429 children, 10,933 pregnant women) in 2013.



What is the scale of this South-South initiative?

In 2009, the programme was extended to 47 districts in 7 departments of the country. By the end of 2013, the programme was further scaled up to reach 178 districts of 13 departments. Only 4 departments and the capital (Asunción) are missing to achieve national coverage.

Have national capacities been strengthened along the process?

Paraguay's government institutions are better equipped today to stop hunger and under-nutrition, with a specific focus on children. This not only relates to the capacity of the institutions to implement measures to end child nutrition and reach the targeted populations, but also to a functional Monitoring and Evaluation System which tracks changes, successes, challenges and lessons from the implementation of child nutrition activities.



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The South-South initiative was implemented in 4 steps:

- **Step 1 - Political will and commitment:** In 2009, the Chilean President visited Paraguay. On this occasion, the President of Paraguay requested urgent assistance from Chile to address national priorities in child nutrition.
- **Step 2 - Defining the right actors:** Based on past cooperation between WFP and the Chilean International Cooperation Agency (AGCI), a collaboration among Chile, Paraguay and WFP was established.
- **Step 3 - Joint project design:** A joint project was formulated which included the formulation of an Integrated Nutrition Policy; training and capacity development of government staff on food security and nutrition, and a dissemination strategy to people benefitting from the project at community level.
- **Step 4 - Establishment of an Integral Food and Nutrition Programme (PANI):** Paraguay's efforts to combat hunger and under-nutrition have been embedded into its "National Institute for Food and Nutrition". The government's new vision focuses on the prevention of hunger and under-nutrition and a larger coverage of vulnerable groups. Trainings of experts have been rolled out in 103 districts of Paraguay.



Who we are

The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide.

Contact Us

The World Food Programme of the United Nations
Via G.C. Viola, 68-70
00148 Rome
Italy
Web: www.wfp.org

Agencia de Cooperación Internacional de Chile
Teatinos 180, Piso 8. Santiago
Chile
Web <http://www.agci.cl/>

For further information on this example please contact
Ms. Maria Pino, WFP Regional Bureau in Panama
(maria.pino@wfp.org).

For information on WFP's support to South-South and
Triangular Cooperation, please contact
Carola Kenngott, WFP Policy, Programme and Innovation
Division, (carola.kenngott@wfp.org).

