

## SUMMARY AND BALANCE 2009, THINKING IN 2010

Esteemed Colleagues, We again approach the end of the year and, happily, the opening of new horizons.

This has been a period rich in experience, knowledge and opportunities. Work on the health initiative and rights of the child has led to achievements, some emerging perhaps, but promising in terms of future possibilities.

### 2009 milestones

I would like to share with you some significant initiative milestones and reflect with you about them.

- This year we celebrated the integration of Paraguay as a participating country in the Southern Cone initiative.
- There have been multiple collaborative activities within and between our countries.
- CRED PRO, as always, has facilitated processes through their networking and inter-agency resources and provided effective support to countries in the implementation of specific activities.
- Uruguay (IDISU) has been working in training activities and recently received support from CRED PRO for printing materials for professionals and the community. Gary Robinson visited that Montevideo in November as part of a visit to the IIN.
- Colombia has worked, as always, hand in hand with the pediatric community. This year, within the framework of the Colombian Congress of Paediatrics in Cartagena. In that event, there were several activities pre and during the congress regarding the subject of child rights. CRED PRO supported the printing of 2,500 CD's with information rights to each participating pediatrician at the Congress. Each of the team members of the initiative is also active in-country activities at their respective institutions (National University, Universidad Javeriana, clinic San Rafael, etc).
- Chile, had made a difference on the enactment of the Integral Protection of Children Act. An event commemorating this achievement was held in Mapocho station to celebrate 3 years of the program "Chile Grows With You", a milestone in the field of child rights-based policies. The initiative was present through a video and audiovisual material submitted by some of the team members, other colleagues and institutions: Uruguay (Alice, Gonzalo), Paraguay (Raquel), Argentina (Andrea and Erica), Jeff, CRED PRO (Stuart), UBC (Clyde Hertzman) and Public Health Agency (Kelly Stone).
- Argentina developed a training programme in health rights-based (project "Te Esucho") services experience with the support of UNICEF-Argentina and developed in three types of health influencers (a pediatric hospital of high complexity, a health center in Buenos Aires marginal urban area and a municipality in the province of Buenos Aires).
- Paraguay developed its project "Pehendu ore ñé e" (hear our voice). Coordinated by the Ministry of health - DIRSINA (Directorate of health of children and adolescents), under the

direction of Rachel Escobar and support from PLAN International (Patricia Serafin). The training of trainers course attended by some 50 professionals with from multiple parts of the ministry. The teaching team was composed by Andrea Schon, Erica Hammermuller, Karina Cimmino, Raul Mercer. Gary Robinson attended as a representative of CRED-PRO

- CRED PRO: organized an event in Whistler, British Columbia, Canada. The event is a periodic event called CRIP (Child Rights in Practice). During this meeting participants presented and discussed methodologies regarding an evaluation and accountability approach to child rights. Child Rights leaders from all over the world attended. The last day was devoted to a review of CRED PRO activities of the various regions: Latin America (Argentina, Chile and Colombia), Central Eastern Europe (headquartered in Ankara) and Africa (Tanzania). Event highlights can be seen on the web page [www.childrightsinpractice.org](http://www.childrightsinpractice.org)
- 15th Congress of the Latin American Association of Pediatricians [ALAPE] in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Social Pediatrics was emphasized and consisted of 2 forums and a day workshop with the participation of professionals from different countries of Latin America and USA. Participating from the various countries were Uruguay (Gonzalo Giambruno and Maria Laura Michelini), Chile (Helia Molina), Colombia (Hernando Villamizar, Ernesto Duran and Maria Lucia Mesa Rubio), Argentina (Raúl Mercer), Panama (Alberto Bissot) and SECH (Jeff Goldhagen), Save The Children (Bertha Pooley), PAHO/GATA (Fernando Stein), UNICEF (Henry Paz) and the Ricky Martin Foundation. Activities met and exceeded expectations. ALAPE indicated that evaluations of participants were pleased with the activities.
- New ALAPE leadership: new leaders were elected and demonstrated new energy (chevere) and new vigor. Heartfelt congratulations to Hernando and his team. ([www.alape.org](http://www.alape.org)) those who were witnesses of this event provided a very positive exclamation and recognition of Hernando and his team. We believe this heralds a good time and with great expectations for those working for the rights of children in the region.
- Newsletter: we are on the fourth edition and the fifth is in preparation. Please note that this is only possible through material that is provided by each of you to Irene. We thank those who are continuously collaborating by providing information. It would be helpful to know if all are receiving the newsletter in the respective countries so that we may be able to update the data with the mail addresses.
- Web pages: addition of CRIP (see above), we recommend the following links and materials:
- [www.allianceforchildrensrights.org](http://www.allianceforchildrensrights.org) (Jeff Goldhagen)
- [www.equidadenlainfancia.org](http://www.equidadenlainfancia.org) (Alberto Minujin)
- [www.fromdoppler.com/Application/source/Campaigns/CampaignViewer.aspx?campaignId=596A3058785534633865593D&campaignType=1&subscriberId=43654555&languageid=0&email=raulmercer@gmail.com](http://www.fromdoppler.com/Application/source/Campaigns/CampaignViewer.aspx?campaignId=596A3058785534633865593D&campaignType=1&subscriberId=43654555&languageid=0&email=raulmercer@gmail.com)

### **How do we continue?**

There are some proposed and ongoing activities and others to share with you. I suggest we open a dialog to integrate ideas into a new work plan for the coming year [2010].

## **Meetings and Activities for 2010:**

- An upcoming event that you should all be aware of is the 4th World Congress on rights of the child and adolescents that will be held in Puerto Rico from 15 to 18 November. It would be good to take note of this event and dates to see if the initiative can play a role in it. For more information [www.congresomundialdeinfancia.org](http://www.congresomundialdeinfancia.org)
- CRED PRO has had meetings with the IIN (inter-American children's Institute, based in Montevideo, Uruguay) and there are pending technical cooperation activities under study and development.
- The need to have a face-to-face meeting with the five participating countries resulted from an informal conversation between members of the Southern Cone Initiative. What do you think of this idea? Given the possibility of this proposal I would appreciate ideas on place and dates?
- We can also entertain the idea of holding virtual meetings

## **Publications**

- There is a formal proposal to write articles for pediatrician journals on the various themes in child rights in which we are working. If there is agreement, we should form ad hoc working groups with those responsible and deadlines
- In Argentina, UNICEF has asked us to prepare a module on intercultural relations and health. We are presently working on this topic.
- Update of our CD on child rights
- Other publications? (to discuss)

## **Evaluation**

- CRED PRO is proposing an institutional assessment model to be validated soon in Chile. The proposal is based on an instrument that was previously circulated to the network
- ARGENTINA: is working on a model of an evaluation of experiences of train-the-Trainer programs
- CRIP: various proposals to develop and implement assessment models came out of the meeting at Whistler.

## **Other proposals? Other ideas?**

As always, feel free to suggest or support ideas for collaboration, regardless of which country is carrying out the project[s]. Reflections or comments on any of the above or other topics are always welcome.

I apologize beforehand for any mistakes or omissions of information, and ask that you add it.

If you think that this update may be of interest to others / as colleagues, please share it.

Let's stay in contact in the hope of pending comments and input.

Please accept our recognition for all who contribute on an ongoing basis with this effort to transform the health of children and adolescents services through the integration of a rights perspective.

A “abrazo” and best wishes,

Raúl