

ORGANIZATION

Asociación Conciencia, Argentina
pledges to

**Support rural children and adolescents
between 5 and 18 years of age in the
province of Misiones, Argentina, in the
process of their ongoing education**

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Name:

School: the best place for children

Description:

Asociación Conciencia pledges to support rural children and adolescents between 5 and 18 years of age in the province of Misiones, Argentina, in the process of their ongoing education, since school is the best place for children. Permanent, ongoing education for children and adolescents minimizes the risk of exposure to child and youth labour situations.

The problem: among smallholder families, children are incorporated from a very early age into productive and domestic tasks on the farm. In addition, families live in rural areas with precarious public services, where primary schools are, on average, more than one kilometre away from their homes and secondary schools are more than five kilometres away. Primary schools and health clinics are the main spaces for socializing in a context in which there are no sports or recreational spaces that offer activities for the alternative use of free time. These structural conditions of rural missionary life, coupled with low family incomes, exacerbated social vulnerability during the forced isolation generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which also forced the closure of schools for the entire year 2020. In this context, the conditions of exposure to the risks of child and youth labour have worsened.

The tool: Implementation of a close and direct family support system with an educational focus in coordination with rural schools. Through:

- improving literacy skills;
- developing leisure, sports and recreational activities;
- generating family environments conducive to the development of educational activities;
- educational support materials in the form of booklets appropriate to each age group.

Implementation plan:

- Surveying and identification of families with school-age children and adolescents at risk of dropping out of school in the priority areas of Asociación Conciencia's Porvenir programme.
- Agreement and scheduling of fortnightly visits to families in their homes.
- Design and implementation of an action plan drawn up jointly between the family and the school in line with the educational needs of the children and adolescents in each family.

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- Communication and dissemination of the initiative's progress in local media and on Asociación Conciencia's social networks.
- Creation of spaces for exchange, dissemination and ratification of the pledge to action among public, private and third-sector actors committed to the issue of child and adolescent labour, on the occasion of the World Day Against Child Labour on 12 June.

Impact:

Permanent, ongoing education for children and adolescents will reduce the amount of time they are exposed to child and youth labour in rural contexts where productive and family life takes place in the same space (on the farm). Likewise, over the medium and long term, education favours the improvement of families' human capital, resulting in better economic, social and cultural living conditions, and counteracting the reproduction of the poverty cycle as a structuring factor of child and youth labour.

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