

Title: **ISDE Strategies and Activities in Latin America**

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The work of ISDE in Latin America is based on the following strategies:

“Action in Partnership”

Build Alliances

Regional replicability

Multisectorial participation

The main tools are to accompany the strategies to fulfill the goals are:

Education

Information

Materials in Spanish and Portuguese

Advocacy

Promotion of research with intervention in the community

Main educating and training activities are focus on:

- Training for Pediatricians

Argentinean National Congress of Pediatrics, October, 2003 and October 2006

Pediatricians participating from 7 countries of South America

Co-organized with WHO

- Post degree education at universities  
At Public Health School and at Environmental Management School
- General Public and other NGOs
- Media and Professional Associations
- Promote the organization of CEH Units (PEHSU) in Latin America  
Focusing on education, clinic and research.

Tools available for education and dissemination of information:

- Training Package for Health Care Providers (English, WHO, ISDE.LA prepared the Spanish version)
- Pediatric Environmental History (English, WHO)
- "Green Format" for Children EH Diagnosis (ISDE.LA prepared the Spanish version, English, WHO)
- Environmental Component of the Integral Management of Childhood Illness (Pilot) IMCI-WHO (in Spanish prepared by ISDE.LA under the supervision of WHO, work in process)
- Children Environmental Health Profile in Argentina (prepared by AAMMA/ISDE.LA)
- AAMMA and ISDE Website: in Spanish and English on EH. Is organized as a “Newspaper or journal webpage”
- IPSC Pesticides Interactive Course (in English by UNEP Chemicals and WHO, ISDE.LA is preparing Spanish version)

Educational and informative materials in Spanish are always scarce and this is an important problem that ISDE.LA faces to implement the activities and provide master trainers of tools to replicate activities and promote concrete actions in the field.

Activities undertaken by ISDE in Latin America:

2001

- Started collaboration with *Argentinean Society of Pediatrics*

2002

- *Argentinean Society of Pediatrics* Working Group on CEH
- Training workshops for pediatricians started in Argentina
- Training activities with *Uruguayan Society of Pediatrics*
- The *Uruguayan Society of Pediatrics* Working Group on CEH

2003

- Survey sent to the “Presidents” of the *Societies of Pediatrics of Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Chile and Peru*
- Training Workshop for pediatricians: 500 from 7 South American countries. Organized with Argentinean Society of Pediatrics. Special guest: Presidents of the 7 Pediatrics Societies
- IPA: First meeting of the IPA CEH Committee in Argentina
- *Declaration of the Presidents of the Societies of Pediatrics of the South Cone and Peru (7 countries), (see transcription below)*
- *Paraguayan Society of Pediatrics* starts a WG on CEH
- *Paraguayan Society of Pediatrics* 1st Workshop on CEH

**Declaration on CEH by the Presidents of the Pediatric Societies of the South Cone:  
Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and Peru.  
Mar del Plata, Argentina – 2 October 2003**

**Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and Peru have shown that common environmental problems are threatening the current and future health of our children and communities.**

**The Pediatric Societies of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay express their commitment to work together in the following areas:**

- **Education and training of their members.**
- **Research on the main problems.**
- **Advocacy on Children’s Environmental Health at the level of governments, and national and international organizations.**
- **Promote actions for a better knowledge and protection of the environments where children are born, grow up, play and learn in the community.**

*Children are the future of our Nations and protecting their health is our commitment.*

2004

- Participation at the Uruguayan Congress of Toxicology:  
*“Children, Pesticides and POPs: Beyond acute toxic exposure”*
- Pre-congress Training - *Peruvian Congress of Pediatrics*
- Pre-congress Training - *Paraguayan Congress of Pediatrics*
- CEH Panel at the *Ambulatory Pediatrics Congress, Argentina*
- First contacts with CEH WG at *Brazilian Society of Pediatrics...*

2005

- HEMA (Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas) meeting (Argentina, Mar del Plata, June 2005): CEH and Chemical Safety were two of three main topics
- AAMMA / ISDE participated in the NGOs WG and Redacted the Document of the Public Interest NGOs of the Americas
- Regional Workshops in Puna (north) and Patagonia (south). Under the support of the Ministry of Health and in collaboration with Argentinean Society of Pediatrics
- Ministry of Health and Environment (Direction of Maternity and Child Health) present the Pediatric Environmental Units Project

**Buenos Aires, Argentina  
2005, November  
II WHO World Conference on CEH**  
Organized by WHO and Argentinean Government and the Society of Pediatrics  
**Pre-conference Workshop on CEH**  
Organized by AAMMA / ISDE – INCHES and WHO  
**Workshop on Biomarkers on CEH**  
Organized by WHO

Other activities in Argentina

2005

- Toxic Exposures and Child Labour
  - Collaboration with the National Commission of Eradication of Child Labor of the Ministry of Work:
    - Toxic exposures of children at work
    - Children and pesticides: rural work
  - Development of guideless to prevent health consequences of children involved in rural work. (2003-2004)
  - Program for the education of teachers in rural schools on Children and Toxicants.
  - Report on Exposure to Pesticides in Children engaged in Rural Work in Argentina (2004).

2006

Educational Coordinated Project in South Cone countries Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. Coordinated with same activities in Canada, under the support of the Environmental Protection Agency of USA (EPA USA) and the Technical Advice of WHO, using Training Materials for Health Care Providers translated into Spanish by AAMMA/ISDE.LA.

Activities

- Survey to pediatrician
- “Master Trainers” training on Children's Health and Environment and Children Chemical Safety
- Partners: Argentinean, Chile, Paraguayan and Uruguayan Societies of Pediatrics

### **Strategies, tools, actions and programs**

#### **Analysis of the work done 1998-2006**

**New scenarios - new goals**

**New strategies - new tools**

1988 – First Conference on CEH organized by ISDE

1998 - ISDE participated in the organization of INCHES

2002 - ISDE and INCHES (WSSD) contributes to HECA

WHO initiatives helped enormously the role of NGOs which are working on the subject.

### **CEH initiatives in Latin America**

ISDE and INCHES:

- Identified the central role of paediatricians on CEH
- Established very strong (and fruitful) links with the Paediatric Societies in Latin America.
- Promoted actions and created alliances (networking) with professional/scientific NGOs.
- Identified and established links with authorities (Ministries of Health and Environment).

Today's activities involve South Cone countries: Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Peru. Countries such as Brazil and Ecuador are also embarking in new activities.

Among the important initiatives (there are many but only 3 will be stressed for the sake of time):

- Training paediatrician and other health care professionals by building capacity to recognize, assess and manage paediatric diseases linked to the environment.
- Promoting Paediatric Environmental History and Green Page under pilot testing in an Argentinean province.
- Promoting the organization of CEH centres (the Ministry of Health and Environment of Argentina is setting up successfully a net of PEHSUs)

### **CEH Profiles (Perfil SANA), Lessons learned**

Thanks to WHO's vision, guidance provided and the strong technical and logistic support many countries and organizations are taking action. However, CEH issues need more recognition and action - there are lots to be done, and we look forward to further collaboration (***“Translating knowledge into action: Children can not wait!”***)

**Lessons learned:**

- **Promoting a dialogue**

This sometimes may be difficult due to the complexities of the CEH issues, where many sectors are involved and has a role to play.

- **Promoting networks**

Including all sectors: government, academia, health, environment, NGOs, industry and community  
Inspiring mutual trust and confidence in cooperation, identifying problems and also the solutions!  
Installing the topic for and in the community.

**Work done since 1998**

- Identify needs
- Define goals
- Develop proposals
- Build strategic alliances
- Attract the participation of all stakeholders
- Capacitate sectors for participation
- Implement strategies from decision makers sectors
- Provide and develop materials (in the regional language)
- Make materials accessibly
- Network promotion

**Goals on 1998**

- Introduction CEH as an issue
- Inclusion of CEH topics in Governmental agendas
- Pediatrician as main partner
- Capacity building

**BUT****We need new strategies**

- Different scenarios
- Different alliances
- Who is who in CEH? What are the initiatives?
- What are the results: materials, commitments?
- No strategies at decision level
- No many “actions in partnership”
- Lack of integration of the parts for actions
- Lack of strategies and projects that include young people and children in actions
- Lack of analysis and replication of successful strategies
- “Sometimes” in the agendas
- Many declarations, but “commitments”...?
- Only a few intervention actions
- Still very low involvement of the academia
- No inclusion in the medical curricula
- No budget to deliver the tools developed
- No budget to maintain action in networks created
- Situation “stuck”
- PEHSUs net in development but need to be sustained

**New strategies and goals 2006 on... 5 years?**

- International forum
- Actions in the field
- Identification, make visible and replication of successful experiences
- Create new tools
- Incentive and encourage multi-sectorial actions
- Incentive local actions