

Action brief

Political advocacy towards a state nutrition policy in Ecuador

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Country: Ecuador

Topics: Social mobilization, advocacy and communication

Sub-topics: Engaging parliamentarians for legislative advocacy, budget oversight and public outreach

Date: September 2023



Overview



The link between the Civil Society Alliance and current public policy on child nutrition has allowed for detailed and technical work to constitute the Advisory Council for the Prevention and Reduction of Chronic Child Malnutrition, a civil society advisory council that helps mobilize ideas, projects and resources in the fight against chronic child malnutrition. The alliance advocates for sustainability and institutionality and helps make further headway towards establishing the fight against chronic child malnutrition as a long-term state policy.



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Objectives of the action brief

This action brief aims to provide information to civil society and other stakeholders on how to work together in building a state policy for the prevention and reduction of chronic child malnutrition.



Period covered

This action brief covers the year 2022.



What action was taken?

The SUN Civil Society Alliance in Ecuador has, since 2021, been showing the state the need to create an Advisory Council for the Prevention and Reduction of Chronic Child Malnutrition.

At the end of 2021, the technical secretariat of Ecuador Grows Without Chronic Child Malnutrition, the governing body in charge of chronic child malnutrition, developed an intersectoral strategic plan for the prevention and reduction of chronic child malnutrition. At the request of the Alliance, the plan called for the formation of an advisory council composed of civil society organizations, international cooperation bodies, the academic world, the private sector and the media.

This council, which was formally established in October 2022, favours the creation of an environment that can ensure the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of public policy.

In addition to the above, the SUN Civil Society Alliance in Ecuador has carried out the following actions:

1. Advocate for the eradication of chronic child malnutrition in Ecuador as a state policy and monitor programmes and resources allocated on central and territorial levels. In territories where programmes and projects are implemented, the organizations within the SUN Alliance in Ecuador advocate for public chronic child malnutrition policy in decentralized autonomous governments, municipalities and parishes, and — depending on their capacities — reinforce actions in favour of the fight against malnutrition.

2. Position the idea that the strategic plan, in addition to being a public policy, must be sustained and converted into a state policy that goes beyond the governments that succeed each other in power.

3. Generate various educational and communication materials ranging from healthy nutrition campaigns to explanatory material aimed at the decentralized autonomous governments to monitor public policy indicators.

4. Execute complementary actions to foster public–private partnerships.

5. Provide support in the coordination and implementation of specific actions in the territories that help reduce chronic child malnutrition.

6. Promote the informed and committed participation of grassroots and community organizations and families in the strategy implementation process. The First 1000 Days Forum, which brings together various sectors of society that carry out actions and show interest in the field of chronic child malnutrition, continues, with the latest forum held in June 2023, with the participation of the Alliance.

In addition, work is under way with three political parties to unify three draft bills into a single policy tool that turns the fight against chronic child malnutrition into state policy and guarantees the rights of Ecuadorian children over time.

At the subnational level, information is being collected to identify early warnings about the state of nutrition and the provision of goods and services by the state to the target population.



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Adaptation and applicability

- The alignment of the SUN Civil Society Alliance with public policy and the generation of commitments from various stakeholders to work on the construction of a state policy are fundamental.
- Maintaining a common language and understanding of the problem among the various stakeholders in society is key to the proper development of public policy.
- To promote political advocacy, it is necessary to convene all social stakeholders and thereby establish a dialogue with at the highest levels of government.
- The multisectoral platform of the SUN Movement, which meets monthly, is a strategic forum to generate an exchange of data, experiences, good practices, etc.



What would the country do differently?

- Enhance communication with the SUN Movement and thereby enhance dialogue with United Nations organizations.



Next steps

- The next steps are to continue to engage new and different sectors connected to the cause and, with this, use inductive reasoning to construct a social movement.



Informations supplémentaires



CCM Advisory Council – Ecuador



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This Good Practice was developed in collaboration with the SUN Civil Society Network (SUN CSN). For more information about the SUN CSN, please visit their website: <https://www.suncivilsociety.com/>



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