

# BASIC CARE BASKET (BCB)

## Research partner:

Southern Voice (SV) and Center for the Implementation of Public Policies Promoting Equity and Growth (CIPPEC)

## Timeframe:

02/02/2023 - 15/10/2024

## Main objective:

The project aims to conceptualize the Basic Care Basket (BCB) and test in cities across Argentina. It also seeks to contribute to positioning the care issue on the public agenda and guide governments in consolidating Comprehensive Care Systems. This synthetic indicator determines the monetary value threshold below which households with children and adolescents cannot provide care without risking the development of new generations' capabilities and women's economic autonomy.

## Description of the Public policy/innovation:

Current economic indicators do not account for domestic or unpaid care work. Consequently, they underestimate the production costs of human capabilities, conceal women's contributions to the economy, and limit the available evidence to understand and reverse the mechanisms underlying the reproduction of social and gender inequalities.

The project consists of three stages:

- Development of the conceptual and methodological framework for calculating the BCB.
- Implementation of a pilot test of the BCB in Santa Fe, Argentina.
- Development of a national and global strategy to disseminate findings and promote the adoption of the BCB in global debates.

## Challenges and strategies:

- Implementing the BCB in Santa Fe required an alliance with the provincial government's statistics department. However, a discrepancy arose between the project's technical timelines and the state's administrative timelines.
- The methodological development of the BCB required scattered data not found in a single database. Faced with this, in collaboration with the National University of La Plata (CEDLAS), a database was created that combines information from the Argentine Statistical Institute and UNICEF.

## Lessons:

The methodological development demonstrated that, in the absence of a comprehensive database to calculate the indicator, it was feasible to create a dedicated database using various sources of information. Additionally, the pilot test results indicate that it is possible to coordinate efforts between areas that lack incentives to collaborate. Furthermore, the analytical and conceptual framework of the BCB helped overcome obstacles that hindered collaborative work, potentially facilitating a more widespread integration of the care approach into the municipality's social policy.

## Achievements:

- Three progress documents were prepared in 2023: the conceptual and methodological framework for calculating the BCB, the inputs and preliminary results of the BCB estimation for the urban conglomerates of Argentina in 2018, and the systematization of the care policies of Santa Fe.
- Presentation at events to disseminate the project: "A new indicator for care needs. Feedback session on the Basic Care Basket" (CSW67, New York), "Driving the Next Decade of Sustainable Development" (Southern Voice, Kenya), G20 (India), and conferences linked to W20 and T20, among others.
- The BCB was recommended by the W20 to G20 member governments and was included in the IDS Policy Brief. In addition, the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity of Argentina declared it of ministerial interest.

## Replicability and sustainability of results:

### Replicability

The BCB helped bring together actors around a new political issue: the joint approach to the deficit in resources for raising children and adolescents in the city of Santa Fe. The approach to this initial exercise serves as a basis for replicating the experience in other settings, contexts, or municipalities.

### Sustainability

To maintain the BCB's impact, SV and CIPPEC continue to promote their findings, highlighting their value for public policy. In 2024, results were presented at a CSW68 event, and the team will soon participate in a United Nations meeting (Geneva) and the IAFFE Conference (Rome).

### Scalability

In 2024, the final version of the manual will be published, along with a document of recommendations for consolidating the city's Care System. With these tools and through the Southern Voice network, which brings together more than 70 think tanks in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, knowledge exchange will be promoted to assess scalability in other contexts of the Global South.