



CARE ECONOMY PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHANGE

PERSONAL ASSISTANTS PROGRAM IN URUGUAY: A COMMITMENT TO GENDER EQUALITY?

Research partner:

Interdisciplinary Center for Development
Studies, Uruguay (CIEDUR)

Implementing partner:

National Directorate of Care of the
Ministry of Social Development (MIDES)

Timeframe:

01/08/2023 - 31/10/2024

Main objective:

To generate evidence to assess the contribution to gender equality of the innovation introduced in the Personal Assistants program by expanding the hiring modality (individual or collective).

Description of the Public policy/innovation:

Since the implementation of the National Integrated Care System (SNIC) in 2015, special interest has been placed on including gender perspective in all its actions. However, developing innovative policies such as the Personal Assistants (AP) program posed challenges to achieving this goal. Since 2022, the collective hiring modality for AP of SNIC, which until now was contracted individually, has been introduced to reduce the economic costs associated with accessing this service, the selection mechanisms and the quality of the service.

Expected impacts:

- 1 Improve the provision of the service supplied by the Personal Assistants Program (80 monthly hours of personal assistance for people with severe dependency under 30 or over 80 years old).
- 2 Increase collective service provision through cooperatives.
- 3 Improve the quality of work performed by personal assistants.
- 4 Quantify the cost of supplying services through the collective modality to be considered in the National Budget 2026-2030.

Project progress:

Field work was carried out, which involved surveying all the cooperatives' personal assistants and care referents. In-depth interviews were also conducted with a selection of these respondents, and surveys were carried out with users who have not yet chosen a personal assistant or have decided not to do so in the localities where the cooperatives are located (Salto and Tacuarembó).



Credits: Care System of Uruguay 2023