



Uruguay One UN Coherence Fund Annual Project Narrative Progress Report

Reporting Period: 1 January – 31 December 2009

<p>Submitted by: Susan McDade, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Uruguay</p> <p>Contact information: susan.mcdade@undp.org</p>	<p>Country and Thematic Area Uruguay, Civil Society</p>								
<p>Programme No: J MDTF Office Atlas No: 66251 Programme Title: Strengthening the capacities of civil society organizations in Uruguay.</p>	<p>Participating Organization(s): UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA</p>								
<p>Implementing Partners: National Association of NGOs (ANONG) Institute for communication and development (ICD)</p>	<p>Programme Budget (from the Fund):</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">UNDP</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">120,696</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">UNESCO</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">48,150</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">UNFPA</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">126,260</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Total:</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">US\$ 295,106</td> </tr> </table>	UNDP	120,696	UNESCO	48,150	UNFPA	126,260	Total:	US\$ 295,106
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Total:	US\$ 295,106								
<p>Programme Duration (in months): 18 <u>Start date</u>¹: 14-Jan-2009 <u>End date</u>: 14-Jul-2010 Original end date Revised end date, if applicable Operational Closure Date², if applicable: <u>Budget Revisions/Extensions:</u> List budget revisions and extensions, with approval dates, if applicable</p>									

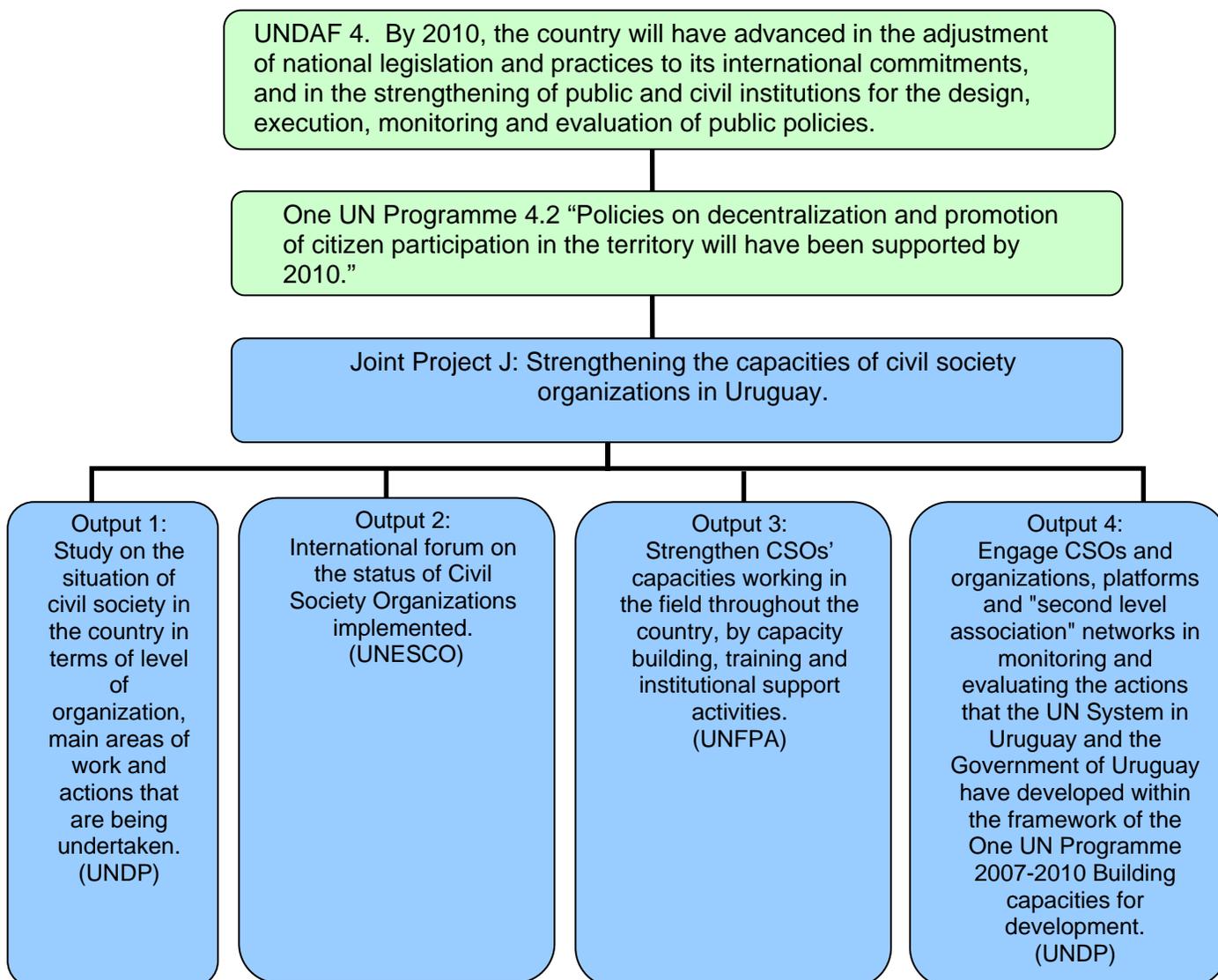
¹ The start date is the date of the first transfer of funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent.

² All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MDTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MDTF Office.

I. PURPOSE

Programme Description:	<p>This project is being implemented in line with the objectives of the One UN Programme 2007-2010 “Building Capacities for Development” in Uruguay.</p> <p>This project aims at strengthening and developing capacities amongst civil society organizations at an institutional level in order to improve the effectiveness and success of their participation as key actors various spaces. It is aimed at enhancing the capacities of SCOs as key actors ensuring the active role of the citizens in monitoring public resources, the democratic system and the UN agencies.</p>
Development Goal:	<p>UNDAF 4. By 2010, the country will have advanced in the adjustment of national legislation and practices to its international commitments, and in the strengthening of public and civil institutions for the design, execution, monitoring and evaluation of public policies.</p>
Outcome:	<p>One UN Programme 4.2 “Policies on decentralization and promotion of citizen participation in the territory will have been supported by 2010.”</p>
Outputs and Key Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study on the situation of civil society in the country in terms of level of organization, main areas of work and actions that are being undertaken. 2. International forum on the status of Civil Society Organizations implemented. 3. Strengthen CSOs’ capacities working in the field throughout the country, by capacity building, training and institutional support activities. 4. Engage CSOs and organizations, platforms and "second level association" networks in monitoring and evaluating the actions that the UN System in Uruguay and the Government of Uruguay have developed within the framework of the One UN Programme 2007-2010 Building capacities for development.

Outputs for the Joint Project D and their relation to the One UN Programme and the UNDAF



II. RESOURCES

Participating UN Organization(s)	Approved Joint Programme Budget	Approved Disbursements (2009)
UNDP	120,696	82,604
UNESCO	48,150	48,150
UNFPA	126,260	83,785
Total:	US\$ 295,106	US\$ 214,539

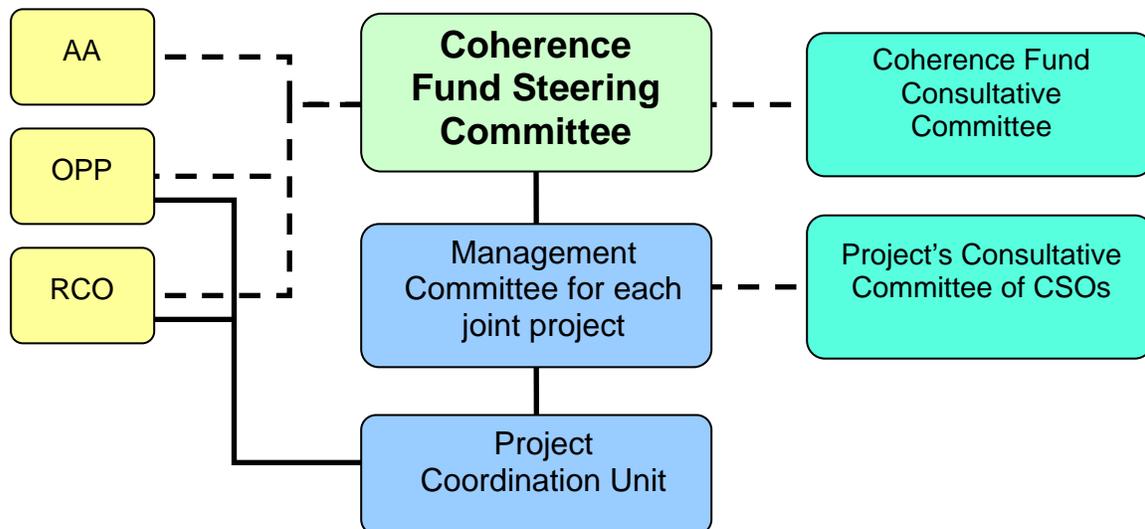
III. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

To support the One UN Programme, the Government and the UNS in Uruguay agreed to establish the Uruguay One UN Coherence Fund; a common, un-earmarked, development fund, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator. The Uruguay One UN Coherence Fund supports the coordinated resource mobilization, allocation and disbursement of donor-contributed resources for the unfunded elements of the One UN Programme.

The Uruguay One UN Coherence Fund has several governance mechanisms to ensure proper management of funds, supervision of project execution, and monitoring of results. The mechanisms are: The Coherence Fund Steering Committee, The Coherence Fund Consultative Committee, The Management Committees, and the Administrative Agent (AA). This project specifically, has a Consultative Committee that provides recommendations and serves as the space where other CSOs can participate and express their opinions.

The members of the Management Committee are: Office of Planning and Budget (OPP), National Association of NGOs (ANONG), Institute for communication and development (ICD), the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), the executing agencies (UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA) and the associated UN Agencies (FAO, IOM, ILO, UNIDO, WHO, UNEP, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNV).

Governance mechanisms for the Uruguay One UN Coherence Fund and Project J.



IV. RESULTS

Partnerships and inter-agency relationship. Impact on results:

There has been a very good level of collaboration among implementing agencies (UNDP – UNICEF - UNFPA); this has facilitated planning activities, adjusting the work plan according to suggestions made by the Consultative Committee –CC- (integrated by national NGO networks), and monitoring the implementation of the project.

Moreover, it is worth underscoring the effort of connecting the work done in the different project outputs with other initiatives that the United Nations System (UNS) is implementing.

Cross-cutting issues to be highlighted:

Cross-cutting issues such as gender, human rights and local development have been permanently taken into account. NGOs participating in all activities develop actions within the three areas being it at the local level or regional country level.

Difficulties in the implementation, lessons learned to improve management, and knowledge acquired as a result of evaluations and studies carried out throughout the year.

- Once the project document was finalized, it was presented to CSOs to afford them possibility of making adjustments to it considering the beneficiaries' perspective; thus a phase of adjustment of outputs, activities and results was implemented.
- There was a trade off between inclusiveness (encouraging participation of as many CSOs as possible is one of the main aims of the project) and speed of implementation of the activities during the first months of implementation.
- The project is being implemented working closely with organizations and networks, based on voluntary participation and in some cases including additional activities, this leads to some delays in decision-making processes and generates the need for a stronger coordination unit and a more active role of the implementing partner.
- Support received from the Resident Coordinator's Office, which followed up on project management, providing technical guidance and support, played a key role in ensuring the proper execution of the project.
- The fact that the project was designed in a flexible manner with participation from the national counterparts led to greater ownership.
- Throughout the process, there was incremental cooperation between agencies thus generating greater synergies between outputs, which resulted in a coherent work plan and results.

Output 1: Study on the situation of civil society in the country in terms of their level of organization, the areas involved and the actions that are being undertaken. (UNDP)

- ICD (an NGO with previous experience in implementing the CIVICUS index) was contracted to carry out the activities regarding the implementation of CIVICUS. A work plan was designed including the organization of the survey, the collection of information, the analysis of quantitative data and the collection of qualitative data to complement the results obtained .
- For the implementation of this output the following activities were undertaken from March to December 2009:
 - A Consultative Committee (CC) was created specifically for this project to incorporate the views of CSOs that did not have direct access to the planning of activities for the

- project. It consists of 12-20 representatives and actors from various sectors of society.
- Conduction of a survey among CSOs.
 - Conduction of surveys to get acquainted with the perceptions of key stakeholders: State, social organizations, business sector, academia, international organizations and media.
 - Conduction of a public opinion survey on participation and the perception of the population in connection with the role of civil society.
 - Elaboration of four case studies and review of secondary sources of information.
 - Preparation of preliminary report.
 - Conduction of consultative meetings in different parts of the country to gather complementary qualitative data.
 - Conduction of a national workshop with the participation of civil society and Government, academic institutions, international organizations, media and business sector, with the aim of examining and validating the research preliminary results.

Output 2: International forum on the status of Civil Society Organizations implemented. (UNESCO)

- The expected result of this output was to generate a forum to promote debate amongst CSOs in an inclusive environment.
- The main objectives of the Forum were:
 - To generate a discussion, at the national level with international experts, on the role of CSOs in the new political processes in Latin America and the Caribbean, by examining the reconfiguration of the public sphere, the quest for community development, and the construction of citizenship.
 - To analyze the mechanisms of participation and incidence of CSOs on State programs and the impact on their autonomy.
 - To identify specific areas where CSOs need to strengthen capacities.
 - To promote the understanding of the Civicus Index of Civil Society and its potential as a tool for empowerment.
- The agenda was varied, and took into account the different issues agreed with national partners of the project. Particular emphasis was made on ensuring a good level of participation in discussions. Rapporteurs were selected to compile results of each panel and discussion. In the closing session the general rapporteur presented a summary of the main discussions taking place in the Forum.
- Strict management of spending led to a more efficient achievement of results:

Originally, 40 people were expected to participate; however, owing to massive diffusion 110 participants attended. Travel and accommodation were arranged for more than 60 people from outside the capital city as well as 10 international keynote speakers.

A video was recorded to be used as educational material. Audio was also recorded for all sessions to be used as input for the design of a publication.

Output 3: Strengthen CSOs' capacities working in the field throughout the country, by capacity building, training and institutional support activities. (UNFPA)

The output progressed as expected considering outcomes and results for the year.

At an initial stage, a delay was observed in the development of the activities due to the need of additional time for coordination purposes and redefinition of activities.

From July to December 2009 among many other activities, the following should be mentioned:

- Creation of the project's Consultative Committee with participation of several CSOs, and NGO networks, its role is to advise the project's Management Committee.
- Regular meetings of the Consultative Committee to review the project adjusting it bearing in mind the needs of the different organizations, in particular output 3.
- Output 3 was redesigned incorporating the geographical dimension in the needs assessment carried out by the Consultative Committee, as well as a work plan to implement output 3 in 4 regions of the country.
- Consultations and presentation of the project by carrying out 4 meetings in 4 different regions outside the capital city to contact local organizations and inform them about the project's goals.
- Implementation of regional fora to hold consultations with CSOs in 4 regions. The main purpose of these meetings was to build a local agenda prioritizing themes identified as main areas to be strengthened. The meetings also allowed the identification of local referees willing to participate and promote the project.
- Elaboration of a document to systematizing document containing the results outputs from the debates of the fora.
- Elaboration of a work plan of capacity building and trainings for CSOs in consultation with involved actors.
- Publication and dissemination of documents elaborated by the networks members of the consultative committee to strengthen the resources and the information available to CSOs from out of the capital.
- Contact new groups and local coordination: a series of coordination meetings with other institutions have been held in order to establish new linkages with Project J.
- Information about the Project's activities is disseminated through a newsletter. It reaches over 1700 people/institutions through e-mail.
- Meetings were held with the CSO networks to analyze the results of the systematization of outputs from the fora. It was decided to organize 4 trainings to be implemented in two phases. A first stage involved the recruitment of two teams of trainers in the areas of Strategic Planning and Accounting. Four training sessions (out of a total of 8) were undertaken reaching more than 100 participants from various organizations of North and Coastal regions.

Output 4: Engage CSOs and organizations, platforms and "second level association" networks in monitoring and evaluating the actions that the UN System in Uruguay and the Government of Uruguay have developed within the framework of the One UN Programme 2007-2010 Building capacities for development. (UNDP)

The objective is to train CSOs to incorporate the HRBA in evaluating the actions carried out by the UN System and the Government in the framework of the One UN Programme.

Background

The Management Committee stressed the need of strengthening the capacities of organizations to perform evaluations and to involve civil society in assessing and monitoring programs and establishing mechanisms for future participation.

Applying the human rights-based approach to monitoring cooperation programmes, particularly those related to social development, is relevant because it provides a reference to evaluate the challenges that the State and CSOs need to overcome to ensure that duty bearers attain the services, protections and rights afforded to them. The human rights based approach also ensures an inclusive and

universal involvement in terms of participation and considers the specific characteristics of the various groups involved.

During June-December 2009 a work plan to implement this output was elaborated by the Coordination and UNDP, submitted for comments to the CC and then presented to the Management Committee.

The framework was approved in December 2009 and its implementation is scheduled to be carried out in two phases:

1st stage February-March 2010: Diagnosis and design of trainings

2nd stage from April to September 2010: Training of local stakeholders in applying the HRBA in monitoring and assessment

V. FUTURE WORK PLAN 2010

Output 1: Study on the status of civil society in the country in terms of their level of organization, the areas involved and the actions that are being undertaken. (UNDP)

- This output ends in March 2010 and findings of the implementation of the CSI will be disseminated and taken as relevant inputs to design actions, during the third semester (April-September 2010).

Output 2: International forum on the status of Civil Society Organizations implemented.

- This output ends in March 2010 and a publication containing the results of the International Forum will be released. This publication (in book format) will include some presentations made by international keynote speakers, the Rapporteur's summary and synthesis of the systematization of regional forums carried out throughout the country. This document will be a major input for informing and developing capacities amongst CSOs during activities implemented through output 3 and 4.

Output 3: Strengthen CSOs' capacities working in the field throughout the country, by capacity building, training and institutional support activities. (UNFPA)

- During 2010, activities aiming to strengthen and deepen the ongoing work out of the capital will be undertaken. Three consultations were held in 2009 and a 4th consultation will be carried out in the Eastern region of the country. For this consultation, local organizations will be contacted and a one-day discussion will be organized addressing similar topics as previous regional fora. National networks and member organizations of the CC will participate in the meeting, as well as the Coordination and ANONG.
- Coordination of tasks relating to project implementation and contacts with new organizations will continue, as well as dissemination of relevant project information.
- Capacity development will be a core objective for 2010. The training courses will continue in early 2010; and new courses will be implemented according to the needs identified in regional consultations.

Output 4: Engage CSOs and organizations, platforms and "second level association" networks in monitoring and evaluating the actions that the UN System in Uruguay and the Government of Uruguay have developed within the framework of the One UN Programme 2007-2010 Building capacities for development. (UNDP)

According to the work plan approved in December 2009 and its implementation two main activities will be implemented in 2010:

1st stage (February-March 2010): Diagnosis and design of trainings:

Conduct a consultancy aiming at identifying strategies, new ways and mechanisms for CSO participation in future programming. This consultancy should identify already existing forms of participation and should suggest an action plan to encourage the active creation of multi-stakeholder forums for participation and monitoring cooperation projects. This product will comprise a guidance document and a planning proposal to be discussed by the Management Committee and the CC.

2nd stage (April to September 2010): Training of local stakeholders in applying the HRBA in monitoring and assessment:

Conduct a series of training and discussions with the organizations to generate opportunities for participation of organizations in different programming cycles, especially in monitoring implementations and results of programmes.

This phase includes training in participatory methodologies, monitoring and evaluation skills and provides tools for effective participation in relevant multi-stakeholder spaces.

VI. MONITORING

Expected results	Indicators	Status/measure
Output 1: Study on the situation of civil society in the country in terms of level of organization, main areas of work and actions that are being undertaken.	• CIVICUS Index elaborated.	In progress
	• Consultative Committee for CSOs.	Operational
	• CSOs survey.	Completed
	• Public opinion survey on CSOs.	Completed
Output 2: International forum on the status of Civil Society Organizations implemented.	• CSO Forum.	Completed
	• Incorporation of international perspectives.	Yes (Latin America and the Caribbean)
	• Number of national participants.	100
	• Number of international participants.	10

Expected results	Indicators	Status/measure
Output 3: Strengthen CSOs' capacities working in the field throughout the country, by capacity building, training and institutional support activities.	• Number of consultations generated in the interior.	4
	• Number of Departments of the interior where consultations were held.	4
	• Number of training sessions held on Strategic Planning and Accounting.	4
	• Number of participants at training sessions on Strategic Planning and Accounting.	100
Output 4: Engage CSOs and organizations, platforms and "second level association" networks in monitoring and evaluating the actions that the UN System in Uruguay and the Government of Uruguay have developed within the framework of the One UN Programme 2007-2010 Building capacities for development.	• Number of training workshops on HRBA monitoring and assessment of public policies.	Not available
	• Number of participants on HRBA workshops.	Not available
	• Number of localities of participants.	Not available
	• Number of organizations represented by participants.	Not available

VII. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ANONG	National Association of Non Governmental Organizations
CC	Consultative Committee
CIVICUS	Alianza Mundial para la Participación Ciudadana
CSO	Civil society organization
CUDECOP	Uruguayan Confederation of Cooperative Entities
DaO	Delivering as One
ICD	Institute for communication and development
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
OPP	Office of Planning and Budget
PUNO	Participating United Nations Organization
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNS	United Nations System